An independent Arab political daily published the Jordan Prese Foundation جوردان تايمز بوقية سياسية المنول بالانجليزية عن للؤسسة المنحلية الاردنية والراي have put heavy pressure on Moscow not to allow direct lights, saying an influx of Soviet Jews into the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would threaten the rights of Palestinians already living there. The White House Taesday expressed disappointment over Moscow's refusal to allow direct airline flights to Israel, but held out hope such flights might be permitted in the fature.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

lloscow rejects direct flights to Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has rejected an appeal by the Union States and States to allow direct flights for Soviet Jews from Moscow to Israel, the New York Times reported Tuesday. The report, citing administration affidials, did not specify when or how the Soviet refusal was conveyed. It

total in the last two weeks Soviet ambassadors to Syris and several other Arish countries have said there were no plans for direct (lights. U.S. Fresident George Bush, in a speech in San Francisco on Feb. 6, said Moscow could play a useful role as a catalyst for peace in the Middle East if

It allowed direct flights. Acreflet and El Al, the national carriers of the Soviet Union and Israel, signed an agreement in early December which provided for direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv. Arab governments

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Guy Belo, sight of the cavoy a control led his inneral explained Jordan's position, its

Works the U.S. support for Israel's poli-

Omani minister

— Several carps

by Edward Envicosia (AP) — Oman's

state for Foreign

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poem. reported. The agency, monitored here is no grat in Nicosia, said he was greeted at afraid, no grat Mehrabad Airport by Foreign said William his Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. He ired the massawas scheduled to meet President Hasbemi Rafsanjani during his massawas afrance day afrance day are reported.

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LLAS (AP) - lat the presidential palace. "The

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in a fresh bid to rally Cairo's support for his war-divided, im-

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Gilles Period AMMAN (Petrs) — United Na-"Le Pullote (tions special envoy Francis Blan-adapted in (tions special envoy Francis Blan-Israelis with deliberate killings adapted into a chard Tuesday met with the h made his speakers of the Upper and addition in the well-to-leave and Sulciman Arar, and the pas is descard later that he was unable to is come. OCCUPTED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian human rights group reported of contemporary visit the occupied Arab territories of and learning visit the occupied Arab territories mented with the position. Blanchard, who was ng cinematic to the TIM Corretary General Tuesday that Israeli soldiers were carrying out "deliberate, cold-blooded ... targetted" ng cinematic ny sent by U.N. Secretary General called new am Javier Perez de Cuellar to study 1974 have an Javier Perez de Cuellar to study killings of Palestinian suspects instead of called new an Javier Perez de Cuellar to study
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penalty for the chard said Perez de Chellar was
th's last summer and over the situation and arresting them.

Officials of Al Haq — Law in diers to premeditatedly kill the Service of Man — told a news Palestinians." conference that its researchers documented three such cases and were investigating 15 possible other such killings in the past year in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Al Haq, in a report on human rights in the second year of the Palestinian uprising, also said that Israel has loosened its rules to allow soldiers to open fire more freely, increased to one year the length of imprisonment without trial, and begun scaling houses to punish suspected stone

Fatah Azzem, administrative director of the group, said that Palestinians in the occupied territories live in "a state of lawlessness" imposed by soldiers and the military government and sauctioned by Israel's courts. The deliberate and systematic

disregard of the state of Israel for . the standards of international humanitarian law applicable to the West Bank and Gaza renders its occupation of those territories illegal," the Al Haq report said. An Israeli army spokesman, who is not identified under military regulations, denied there was any policy which calls upon sol-

Human rights group charges

"Israel's actions have been directed against violence, frequently incited and instigated by extremist elements," the spokes-

He said that Israel was obligated under international law to maintain order in the occupied territories. "Israel is constantly seeking to find a proper balance between security and humanita-rian requirements," he said.

Al Hag, which is affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, listed 379 killings of Palestinians by soldiers, Israeli settlers and collaborators with Israel during

However, it did not give an accounting of killings of alleged collaborators by other Palestinians and, despite repeated questions at the news conference, refused to directly criticise Palestinian groups who may have carried out the murders.

Mona Rishlawi, an attorney for Al Haq, said the organisation had no way of investigating "under-ground" killings of alleged collaborators and could only blame Israeli authorities for failing to provide adequate protection to

"As long as the de facto authority is in the hands of the Israeli military, it is they who are responsible," she said,

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1990, RAJAB 26, 1410

According to statistics kept by the Associated Press, 657 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians since the uprising began 26 months ago. At least 187 other Palestinians have been killed, most on suspicion of collaboration.

As to the charges of deliberate killings, Al Haq listed the victims as Yaser Abu Ghosh, 17, who was killed last July 10; Nidal Al Habash, 21, shot to death on Oct. 9 and Atwa Harzallah, 27, who

was fatally shot on Feb. 27, 1989. In all three cases, the victims were shot at close range and in two cases the victims died because soldiers delayed medical treatment, the Al Haq report

Abu Ghosh was shot by a soldier who took careful aim and fired from a distance of seven metres as the teenager was being chased, the report said. It said he apparently received no medical treatment for more than two

Habash was shot as he raised his hands to surrender after being surrounded following a chase by soldiers in the West bank city of Nablus, Al Hag said.

Harzallah was stopped with four other Palestinians in the West Bank village of Deir Ibzi and, while all five raised their hands, soldiers shot Harzallah twice in the head, the report said. It said two of those with Harzal-

The Al Haq report noted that the army had maintained that proper procedures were followed in the shooting of Abu Ghosh, including the shouting of warnings and first shooting at the suspect's legs, but said eyewitness accounts contradicted this ver-

It also noted that authorities claimed Harzallah was killed during a protest. It said a lawyer for his family requested an investigation last April but has not yet received a response.

On Tuesday, an army spokes man said he was checking the status of the three cases.

The changes in regulations on opening fire, detention without trial and sealing houses of suspected stone throwers have all been confirmed by military offi-

The latest opening fire rules allow soldiers to shoot with live ammunition at masked Palestinians who disregard orders to halt even if the men are not armed. Soldiers must first shoot in the air, then fire at the suspect's legs before opening direct fire.

Al Haq said that Israel increasingly used torture and collective punishment to try to crush the Palestinian uprising.

The human rights group said: One of the clearest trends during 1989 has been an increase in

Its 600-page report said 14,000 Palestinians were in Israeli custody at the end of November, a

(Continued on page 5)

Sheikh Sabah voices Kuwaiti support for Jordan's endeavours

Al Ahmad Al Sabah Tuesday wound up a two-day visit to Jordan by expressing his country's full understanding of the need for supporting Jordan's requirements and backing for its endeavours on according to the need for the need for supporting Jordan's requirements.

national and pen-Arab levels.

Sheikh Sabah, who spoke at a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, said that Kuwait "appreciates efforts made by Jordan which guards the longest confrontation line with the common Zionist enemy and backs its endeavours to boost and enhance pen-Arab action."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said after the meeting that they discussed current Arab affairs and the talks proved that the two countries carried identic-

TEL AVIV (R) — The head of Israel's armed forces said Tues-

day Jordan felt threatened by the

Jewish state and was seeking Ira-

qi support to counter this threat. Lieutenant General Dan

Shormron said a reported joint

day, saying he would challenge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Knwait's on the need to rally Arab efforts present no war no peace situation immigration into occupied Pales-

> Both sides agreed that "the threat posed by the influx of Jews is directed at all Arab countries," Petra said. Both sides reaffirmed their full

support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the proposed international conference for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolu-tions 242 and 338, the news agen-

Sheikh Sabah discussed with Badran the situation in Lebanon and backed efforts for ending the conflict and starting a national dialogue to end the ordeal of the Lebanese people.

The two sides also called for at views on all issues, especially intensive efforts to transform the Soviet Jews to Israel.

support to counter Israeli threat

Shomron: Jordan seeks Iraqi

permanent peace, Petra said.

Prior to his departure, Sheikh Sabah said his talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Jordanian officials covered Arab affairs as well as further steps to be taken to bolster Kuwaiti-Jordanian re-

Asked to comment on the proposed Arab summit meeting Sheikh Sabah said that nothing has crystallised about this ques-

Sheikh Sabah, who earlier had talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Monday urged Arab states to review their ties with the two superpowers and Eastern Europe in view of the exodus of

Lebanese rivals prepare for fresh fighting

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and troops of General Michel Aoun clashed in two neighbourhoods in east Beirut Tuesday and both sides prepared for war despite an appeal for peace by LF leader Samir

Security sources said fighting erupted in Dora neighbourhood and for 30 minutes militiamen battled troops, using machineguns and rocket-propciled grenades in a savage fire-

day of a shaky ceasefire had caused casualties.

More than 700 people have been killed and 2,500 wounded since the often close-quarter fighting in crowded residential areas erupted on Jan. 31. Eleven ceasefires have collapsed.
Witnesses said Aoun's army

troops Tuesday took up combat positions in east Beirut and near-by mountains and their LF foes deployed more men and weapons, threatening the 12th ceasefire and a peace pact.

"You can smell tension in the air and see fear on the faces of people," said George Naameh, a resident of east Beirnt which has been battered by nearly three weeks of pitiless battles.

Calling for peace, Geagea said to reporters: "We are all convinced that it is impossible for one side to overpower the other and chiminate it because both Aoun's army and the Lebanese Forces are strong.

"Having been strong in the war, we should have the courage to go to peace," said Geagea, commander of the 10,000-strong

He said he would abide by peace pact announced by mediators Monday night.

But in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Geagea reiterated he would not submit to Aoun's demands to lay down arms and withdraw his fighters from Beirut.

Petra Bank dispute remains stalemated after staff sit-in

AMMAN -- A labour dispute at Petra Bank remained stalemated Tuesday after employees staged a sit-in protest hich appeared to have made little dent on the management position, and as the day drew to a close both sides remained firm on their positions.

The sit-in, described as a "protest" by the employees but as "illegal strike" by the management, was the largest organised event by the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) which has thrown its weight behind the bank's staff. Around 400 of a total of 680 Petra Bank employees gathered in front of the main offices of the bank in Wadi

Sagra to stage the sit-in, while bank staff in branches outside Amman stayed away from work, according to JBIEA officials and representatives of Petra Bank employees. According to the management, at least 160 staff mem-

bers were in their offices and the bank performed "almost normal operations" despite the The employees' action revolves around their demand for improved working condi-tions, management reform and higher pay. The management,

a government appointed-committee which assumed office after the Economic Security Committee (ESC) took over the bank in August last year, has offered one to 15 per cent pay raises, with what it describes as special emphasis on the low-salary bracket, but the offer has been rejected by the

employees. Addressing a press conference held Tuesday evening, members of they were willing to pursue nego-



Petra Bank employees Toesday stage a sit-in outside its Amman headquarters (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alian)

nations to reach a settlement, but the employees appeared to reject further negotiations without a precondition that their demand for igher pay would be met.

Chairman of the Petra Bank Management Committee Walid Assour told the press conference that the JBIEA was "exaggerat-ing" the problem and its decision to hold the sit-in was "intended at pressuring the management."

Asfour said that there was no need for the protest because the

management was still in the negotiating process. The management could not attend the last scheduled meeting and the association called for the protest as a result, he said. Asfour added that the protes was illegal according to Article 103 of the Labour Law, which stipulates that a 14-day notice was

essential before staging a strike. In a statement released to the press, the management said it would not allow the association to interfere with the management of the bank. "which already suffers from difficult circumstances. According to the employees, the

protest will not only continue but also escalate if all their demands were not met. It is expected that the employees will call for the resignation of the management Three weeks ago, 500 employe

signed a petition demanding better salaries and better conditions, and that the management begin to put the bank on its feet "rather than wasting time and destroying the reputation of the bank slandering

the bank and its employees." "If the management does not concede to our full demands, we intend to call for the resignation of nothing but destroyed the two most important assets of any bank: Reputation and credibility as well as the morale of our employees,"
Mazen Saket, a protesting employee, told the Jordan Times.

All protesters interviewed by the Jordan Times said they were more concerned over the bank and its reputation rather than raises of salaries, and many expressed bit-terness at the "failure" of the management in improving the work of the bank.

The employees said that "slanagainst the employees of the bank in the media must be stopped, contending that by "slandermg the bank's management was slandering the entire country, because the bank is a national institu-

"We are the ones who built these walls on the bank. We made it and we care about it. For someone from the management committee to come and say that we are thieves is beyond slander. If they know who the thieves are, then they should bring them to account in public and leave us alone," said an outspoken employee.

The employee was referring to an alleged statement made by the Management Committee Deputy Chairman Jawad Anani, as saying that the employees were all crooks.

Iraq maintains same level of imports through Aqaba —Fayez

when its own ports were blocked million. as a result of the fighting. Fayez said Tuesday that goods passing export and handling operations as through Aqaba destined for Iraq account for the major part of goods arriving at the port. Last has made capital investments and year, the port handled nearly 19 is offering jobs to local

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite the million tonnes of goods, up from job-seekers who replace end of the eight-year Gulf war, 2.5 million tonnes in 1977, Fayez non-Jordanian workers.

Iraq is maintaining the same level said in a statement carried by the Fayez proposed that new results and the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement of the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the results at Acade to be the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement carried by the same level said in a statement

These were charges on import,

well as for storage facilities. Fayez said that the corporation

of imports through Aqaba, Jordan News Agency, Petra. wharfs be built at Aqaba to help according to 'Eid Al Fayez, Since 1983 and until the end of increase exports of sulphur director of the Ports Corporation. 1988, the corporation's revenues, coming from Iraq, and cement During the war Iraq imported which were transferred to the from Jordan. He said that Aqaba most of its goods through Aqaba treasury, amounted to JD 89 Port is now operating at 90 per cent of its capacity - a high rate justifying the construction of further wharfs or quays. He said that in comparison,

other ports in the region are operating at only up to 50 per cent of their respective capacity.

executed for crimes

By Ahmad Kreishan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Two Jordanians identified as Salim Mohammad Salameh Al Atrash and Mahmoud Salameh Mohammad Fares were hanged Monday morning after being convicted of killing two people in Amman and Irbid respectively. Salim, 45, was executed in Swa-

qa Prison after being convicted of killing his wife Thibeh Mahmoud Fanash, who has hardly criticised him and threatened to expose him for trying to rape his 26 year old daughter. Salim, who was alone with his daughter Fathieh in their house tried to rape her one day, but she resisted and told her mother upon her return bome. Upon hearing the news, the mother informed her brother, Thieb, who recorded what he heard from his sister on a tape.

Salim harboured ill-intentions and threatened to kill her, but later tried to assure her that he loved her and that he had no intention of killing her, in a bid to make her feel that her life was not threatened. Later, the wife Thibeh, went to her brother's house for a visit on her way back to her house, her husband was to pick her up at a certain place in

Al Manara area. When he did, Salim, instead of going home, took her to an abandoned area on the circular road northeast of Amman where he beat her up and stabbed her to them with the evidences available death, disposing of her body in a to them. Both of them admitted deserted water well, where her their crime.

body was found by the police on

Jan. 16. Mahmoud Fares was executed for killing a street vendor, Abdul-

lah Salameh Abu Murad. Fares, who sold clothes for a living in Irbid, knew Abdullah well. He knew that he was single, liked girls and always had a lot of cash on him, so he thought of a way to get rid of him to take his money. He planned with another accomplice to invite him to Zibdat Farkouh, a small town on the outskirts of Irbid, on the premise that they would meet a girl there.

After arriving in the town, they walked along an earth road to the crime scene, where the three of them sat in a described building. Right after entering the building one day in September 1986, they took him to a room, where they told him he would meet the girl At gunpoint they robbed him of the cash he had on him, shot him and then set his body on fire. All his body was burnt except his skeleton, which was left in the

The two criminals took a taxi and left for their homes in Irbid. where they sold the gun which they used to shoot the man.

Three months after declaring the man missing and after a thorough search, his body was found by Samir Basmi and Yehya Khreis who informed the police. The authorities subsequently arrested the murderers and faced

Group seeks summit on **Jewish** immigration to Palestine

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Islamic Conference for Bait Al Maqdes Tuesday called for convening an Arab and Islamic summit to discuss the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories and to embark on actions designed to make the Soviet leadership put an end to this emigration, and safeguard the Soviet-Islamic relations from deterioration.

In a communique issued after an extraordinary meeting Tuesday the group's executive com-mittee called on the Soviet Union to at least freeze this measure until a just peace is achieved in Palestine, "rather than stab the Palestinian uprising in the back."

The communique said that Washington's position vis-a-vis the Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine is in harmony with "the declared and firm U.S. policy of supporting and strengthening

The executive committee noted in its communique that the continuing emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Palestine constitutes a prelude for waging a long war against the Muslim World.

Indian, Pakistani troops exchange fire

erritories." The European Com-

nunity agreed to send a fact-inding mission to South Africa

out rejected calls from Britain for

MUZZAFFARABUD, Pakistan of casualties from Tuesday's gun-fire exchange at the ceasure line that divides Kashmir between

Pakistan and ladia

sh Foreign Secretary Douglas. Turd said Britain would lift unlaterally its han on and lift unly damaging split emerged Tues-day in Prime Minister Yitzhak major world ment in South Africa. following the resignation of hard-line Trade Minister Ariel Sharon. Five of Sharon's allies

Labour Party the largest in parliament - but it was not clear if the (AP) — Pakistan and Indian rebels' threat was serious or they troops exchanged gunfire for several hours Tuesday after a were only playing for more power within Likud. Pakistani soldier was wounded Sharon, whose resignation took effect Tuesday, told reporalong the troubled Kashmir border, Pakistan officials and a Western observer said. The solters as he left his office that he had not sanctioned the split, but dier was shot in the leg Sanday at added: "All these things, to my the U.N. ceasefire line several regret, are because of one thing, kilometres from the village of an absence of leadership," in Chaukothi, officials said on con-Likud. dition of not being identified. Sharon, a former defence They said there were no reports 1982 Lebanon invasion, announced his resignation Sun-

Israel but reflected what he described as Jordan's fears about israeli intentions.

Iraqi-Jordanian air force training squadron did not pose a threat to tions with its eastern neighbour.
Prominent Israelis, however, have argued that Jordan is the

state of Israel." Shormon contended that Jordan's "fears" were unfounded and Israel was seeking good rela-

"This squadron is a symptom of a process that is worth relating to," Shouron told Israeli Army Palestinian state, Jordan also fears that thousands of Soviet Jewish migrants expected to arrive in Radio. "Jordan is worried, bothered, feels threatened by the Israel over the next few years will push Palestinians from the West

Bank and Gaza Strip into Jordan. "(Jordan) has an interest in seeing Iraq, a strong country with a lot of arms relieved of the Gulf ing it," Shomron said.

wars, as an umbrella for protect-

Split emerges in Shamir's party TEL AVIV (AP) - A potential- Shamir's leadership over the gov-

ernment's peace plan. By Israeli law, the resignation took effect Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc after 48 hours. In a surprise display of strength, Shamir brushed aside demands by ministers in his own threatened to pullout of Likud — Likud Bloc and appointed three which would make the rival of his allies to replace Sharon at the Industry and Trade Ministry

> cabinet, and to fill a vacancy in the full cabinet. Shamir appointed Moshe Nissim, a member of the former Liberal Party, as industry and

and on the decision-making inner

trade minister. He also appointed long-time ally Moshe Katzav to Sharon's position in the 12-member inner cabinet and legislator David Magen to the cabinet.

"This move strengthens Mr. minister who directed Israel's Shamir, who is now proving his leadership," Shamir aide Avi Pazoer said,

Pazner said Shamir did not

consult with rebel ministers before the decision.

"He acted on the strength of the big majority he has in the Likud," Pazner said. "He doesn't have to consult anybody." The appointments must now be

opposition, Israel Radio said. The rebel legislators, who are headed by Economic Affairs Minister Yitzhak Modai, submitted a letter Monday to parliament, demanding recognition as

approved by parliament, where

they are expected to face little

an independent faction. Their letter, made public by newspapers Tuesday, said the group would "cease to be part of the Likud faction in parliament" if the Knesset House Committee granted their request.

A decision on whether to recognise the rebels as a separate faction was expected next Monday, Israel Radio reported.

Sporadic shooting could also be heard in Ashrafiyeh, the main foothold of the LF. It was not immediately possible to check whether the flare-up on the third

Wounded Beirut fighters fly to Italy for treatment

LARNACA (AP) — A ferry boat carrying 21 wounded on their way from wartorn Lebanon to Italy for treatment, braved rough seas to dock at this southern Cyprus port Tuesday.

The wounded, who were in Lamaca early Tuesday, the mong 200 passengers fleeing victims were transferred into among 200 passengers fleeing Lebanon's intra-Christian war, were transferred to an Italian Air Force C-130 transport plane bound for Villafranco Air Base in

"It was a tiring trip in a rough sea... some of the wounded were moaning as they had bad pain," said relief worker Walid Khoury of the Lebanese Red Cross who worked in mobile hospitals that were erected in areas of fighting which killed 640 in the last 19

He said many wounded civilians and fighters died during the clash because it was not possible to take them to hospitals due to the ferocity of the fighting.

Doctors said three of the wounded aboard the Baroness M ferry boat belonged to renegade Gen. Michel Aoun's army. The rest were Lebanese Forces militiamen taken from hospitals in the Christian port of Jounieh, 17 kilometres north of Beirut.

Aoun's troops and warlord Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces have been fighting for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave.

The ferry took 8 hours to navigate the 120 miles of sea. The boat was delayed in landing to pick up passengers and wounded Saturday by fighting and Sunday by bad weather. It finally loaded

After the Baroness M docked

eight ambulances which took

at Larnaca airport.
Six of the ambulances belonged to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and two to the Cypriot National Guard.

Italian ambassador in Cyprus

them to the waiting Italian plane

Guido Rizzo Venci supervised the operation which was sponsored by two humanitarian organizations based in Trento, Italy. Three staff members of the Italian embassy in Lebanon travelled to Italy on the same

One of the Italians said the area around the embassy in Zouk, south of Jounieh, was hit several times during the fighting. There are thirty Italians left in the embassy, including families of

the personnel. Six volunteer doctors and a Lebanese translator came to Larnaca on the plane from Italy Saturday. The wounded were to be treated at hospitals in the northern Italian cities of Trento, Vicenza, Genoa, Verona and

Some of the wounded, wearing thin pajamas were shivering while being carried by U.N. troops on stretchers into the ambulances at a temperature nearing zero degree Centigrade (32 F).

One of the wounded had lost his right leg. Four had eye in-

juries caused by shrapnel.
"This one lost his sight," said a neighbouring victim of a man whose face was covered with ban-

Lebanese consul to Cyprus Micheline Baz who came on the Baroness M, said of the intra-Christian fighting, "it was very bad... my niece is lying unconscious in the hospital and her parents couldn't get to their home to fetch the passports and take her for treatment abroad." Baz was trapped by the fightings while

on a visit home. Baz said she was hiding with her sister and 10-year-old niece in the same room when a shell struck the house in the coastal town of Zouk.

"Nothing happened to us... my niece escaped death, yes. But she will be paralyzed for the rest of her life," Baz said.

A ceasefire has stopped the

fighting since Saturday.

Many of the passengers were coming to Cyprus to apply for immigration to Canada, including one of the ferry's stewards, 25-year-old Gabi. He said he does not believe in Lebanon's cease-

fires anymore. "What's going on is pathetic," said, "why should I stay he said,

By police count, nearly 2,000 have been wounded in nearly three weeks of fighting, the worst between rival Christian forces since the civil war broke out April

The fighting flared when Geagea rejected a demand from Aoun to disband his powerful

U.N. accuses SLA for killing 2 UNIFIL troops in S Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — The United Nations accused pro-Israeli militiamen of killing two of its peacekeepers and wounding six in South Lebanon overnight.

Spokesman Timor Goksel of the U.N. Interim

Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) said Tuesday the Nepalese soldiers were blasted when a mortar bomb fired by the Israeli-armed South Lebanon Army (SLA) hit their positions late Monday. Security sources in Lebanon said the SLA had not deliberately shot at the UNIFIL position and was firing at guerrillas.

The peacekeepers' deaths raised the UNIFIL toll to 172 since the force was created in 1978 to restore order in Lebanon following an Israeli

In Beirut, a pro-Iranian fundamentalist group said Muslim guerrillas, using mortars, had attacked the SLA.

Goksel said that the only shooting came from the SLA.

He said UNIFIL would protest to the Israeli army which arms and equips the SLA. UNIFIL has protested in the past at similar incidents and has accused Israel and the SLA of interfering with its mission.

"It was a fully lighted and marked UNIFIL position. Everyone knows its location and it has been there a long time. So how come a position that is known to be there is hit by mortar fire?" Goksel told Reuters after touring the area.

"We have no reports of any firing from the other side. We don't know what they were firing at...we will take it up with the IDF (Israeli army). They are the ones who give them the ammunition so we have to go to the source," Goksel said. He said the mortar bomb was one of 15 fired from Israel's self-declared border "security zone" inside Lebanon about two kilometres from the

Nepalese position at Buyut Sayyid. "One of the 120-mm mortar rounds fell between the two prefab living quarters of the Nepalese forces. The commander, a warrant officer, was killed instantly as well as a soldier on duty. Six were wounded, one of them seriously, Goksel said.

Some UNIFIL soldiers were asleep at the time while others were fleeing to reinforced shelters because of the firing which also included heavy machinegun fire from another SLA position,

About 5,800 troops serve in the nine-nation UNIFIL force set up to oversee the withdrawal of Israel's 1978 invasion troops and to help the Lebanese government extend its authority to the Israeli border.

Its goals were thwarted by another Israeli invasion in 1982 and the increasing impotence of the Beirut government. Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces in 1985 but established the security zone and prevented UNIFIL from patrolling the

In Beirut, the Islamic Resistance - a coalition

of pro-Iranian fundamentalists — said in a statement that Muslim guerrillas attacked SLA positions with rocket-propelled grenades, mortar bombs and machineguns.

Pro-Iranian and Palestinian guerrillas frequently attack Israeli and SLA targets in the zone, prompting Israeli retaliation.

On Monday, six Israeli jets bombed two positions of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) near the port city of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, killing one person and wounding eight.

Lebanese Shi'ite militants and Israeli leaders

both assail UNIFIL but for opposite reasons. Shi ite militants say the force hinders their operations against Israel. Israel says UNIFIL its role limited to peacekeeping rather than defence — has failed to halt the guerrillas.

3 Israeli experts' on rebel side wounded, Sudanese general says

Sudan's civil war zone, apparent-

ated in newspaper articles a gov-ernment claim that Israel and other countries including Cuba and South Africa are helping the

Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has changed policy and now seeks to establish a breakaway southern state called the 'Imatong socialist state."

spokesman denied his movement was getting aid from Israel or Cuba or was planning to establish a state in southern Sudan.

wounded in a landmine blast while inspecting a rebel camp in Equatoria."

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, SPLA spokesman Lam Akol said: "We have not contemplated or anticipated any form of assistance from Israel. The Khartoum government always has tried to associate us with Israel in an attempt to isolate us from the Arab World." He spoke by telephone with the Associated Press in Nairobi, Kenya.

Interviewed in Juba, Suleiman said government troops saw white mercenaries in the (rebelheld) Kajo-Kaje area" west of Soviet-made T-55 tank, further evidence of foreign interference.

In Khartoum, the capital 1,200 kilometres north of Juba, a European diplomat who closely watchnot prove the government's repeated claims of Israeli involvement. "The government several times

has accused Israel of helping the SPLA but never with concrete evidence," the diplomat said. "We had not heard of these three wounded experts before,

but since the report indicates that

the rebels have them and not the

government, again there is no proof." On the rebel policy shift, Suleiman did not give his source for the alleged rebel decision to create a socialist state with its capital in Juba. The purported name chosen for the state refers to

Equatoria's Imatong Mountains. Renegade Army Col. John Garang, leader of the Sudan Peothat he wants not secession but only better treatment for the non-Muslim south from the Muslimdominated government in the

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEF

Earthquake hits Baghdad, western Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — An earthquake shook Baghdad Tuesday but caused no casualties, the Iraqi Seismological Centre reported The quake, which measured four on the open-ended Richter Scale, struck at 9.10 a.m. (0610 GMT) and was centred 80 kilometres southeast of the Iraqi capital. Iran, meanwhile reported that a tremor of equal strength joited Islamabad-E Gharb near the Iraqi border Tuesday morning. The Iranian news agency IRNA, received in Cyprus, placed the centre of the quak-500 kilometres southwest of Tehran inside Iran's borders.

Libyans wounded in Landmine blast

NICOSIA (R) — Several Libyan security men were critically wounded when a World War II landmine exploded under their car west of Sirte, an official at the Libyan News Agency (JANA) said Tuesday. He said the security men were patrolling an area where fierce battles took place between the German Afrika Corps backed by Italian units and British "desert rats" more than 45 years ago. "The occupants of the car were critically wounded," the official said. Libya has repeatedly asked Italy and other World War II belligerents to hand over maps of millions of mines planted in its deserts during the war. "These mines have killed hundreds of innocent people and prevented them from exploiting their lands for argicultural or industrial purposes," the official said,

israelis committed to greater israel'

DAMASCUS (R) — Israel's leaders from both sides of the political divide were determined to make permanent their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, an official Syrian newspaper said Tuesday. "The Israelis want to evacuate Arabs... to settle Jewish immigrants," said the daily paper Tishrin. The paper said Israeli leaders, from Likud's hawklike Ariel Sharon who resigned from the cabinet in protest at Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's 'soft' peace moves, to the dovish Labour Party leader Shimon Peres shared the same views towards Arab and Palestinian rights. "Greater Israel... remains a firm objective of all Israeli leaders," the paper said: "If some Arabs are betting on the possibility of an emergence of moderation in the Israeli position they are mistaken. Israel denies it has an official policy of settling Soviet and Eastern European Jews in the occupied territories. Many of the 50,000 to 100,000 expected to migrate to Israel this year are considered likely to move to the West Bank

Tunisia eases immigration procedures

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has introduced streamlined passport control procedures at border posts and airports for citizens of the five-nation Arab Maghreb Union. The union, which groups Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, aims eventually to become a single market with free movement of people and goods across its borders. The five countries have already abolished visas for citizens of the other member states. The union's Consultative Council (parliament), at a three-day meeting which ended in Tunis Monday, said the five states should abolish bureaucratic obstacles to free movement, speed up work on a Trans-Maghreb Highway and set up a single North African airline. Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali told the council Saturday the union's next summit in Algiers, in July, would look at plans to issue a standardised Maghreb identity card He also promise to abolish a 45-dinar (\$50) exit tax for Tunisians travelling to one of the other four countries. Parliament must approve the change for it to take effect.

tran hangs 30 for drug smuggling

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has hanged 30 people for smuggling drugs The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said the hangings were carried out in Tehran and nine other cities, but gave few other detailed. Drug traffickers are usually hanged in public unless the convices are women. They are normally executed inside prison. It was the Thirty-one people, including four Afghans and three women, were hanged on Jan. 10. Iran executed more than 900 people for drug-related offences last year. Officials said 34 tonnes of drugs were seized and 277 trafficking rings smashed in the year to Jan. 20. IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said some of those hanged Monday were also convicted of smuggling firearms and explosives and "collaborating with thugs."

iran bans Newsweek

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday it had banned an issue of Newsweek magazine carrying an interview with Salman Rushdie, who the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said should be killed for insulting Islam. The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported the ban on Newsweek's Feb. 12 issue, in which the British author described how his life had changed since Khomeini's order. Iran's top judge Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said Sunday the death decree was irreversible and must be enforced. Rushdie has been in hiding since it was issued a year ago this month.

OAU ministers begin talks in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — African foreign ministers have beer urged by Ethiopia's leader to assess possible effects of changes in Eastern Europe on the continent's economy and politics: President Mengistu Haile Mariam also said the ministers should evaluate the meaning to Africa of the relaxation of reason between the Soviet Union and United States. Ethiopian Vice President Fisseha Desta read Mengistu's statement at the opening session Monday of the Organisation or African Unity (OAU). foreign ministers' five-day conference. Various African have expressed concern that Western nations would abandon the continent and divert aid they previously gave Africans to Eastern Europe, where Communism is collapsing. Another item on the agenda is political changes in South Africa, where President F.W. de Klerk recently legalised the African National Congress and freed from prison Nelson Mandela, the best known of the liberation movement's leaders.

PLO warns of more attacks if Mideast peace deadlock continues KUWAIT (AP) — A prominent other similar operations will take Such extremism will not be satis-Palestinian guerrilla leader was place," Khalaf told the paper fied with mere words to express Palestinian guérrilla léader was

quoted Tuesday as warning of repetitions of acts such as the attack on an Israeli tour bus in Egypt by people frustrated over the deadlocked Middle East peace process, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Tuesday. Salah Khalaf, interviewed by

the daily Al Anbaa in Tunis where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is headquartered, also called for an end to differences between Syria and Iraq and Syria and the PLO to enable revival of an integrated eastern front against Israel.

to the PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the mainstream Fateh guerrilla

"If the (peace) deadlock continues in the Middle East, several it Palestinian, Arab or Islamic.

By Jack Redden

TEL AVIV — Hardliner Ariel

Sharon has walked out of

Israel's government after 13

often stormy years as a cabinet

minister, staking his political

future on the collapse of the

The man who led the 1982

invasion of Lebanon formally

resigned from the government

Sunday to lead his campaign against moves toward Israeli-

Palestinian talks — and to seek

'goodbye and see you later','

march from town to town, to

place to place, both in Israel

and abroad," he said when

After fighting Prime Minis-

ter Yitzhak Shamir's cautious

pressed for his plans.

Sharon, 61, told reporters.

"I told the government

"I am going to start a long

to become prime minister.

ruling coalition.

when asked to comment on the Feb. 4 attack on an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt in which nine were killed and 20 were wounded. Egypt is the only Arab country that has diplomatic ties with Israel.

The PLO renounced terrorism against Israel when it launched a peace initiative late 1988, for the first time also explicitly recognising the existence of the Jewish But Khalaf, also known as Abu

different line if the PLO exceeds its role."

"Israeli extremism will be faced with another extremism, be

moves toward negotiations

from inside the government,

Sharon, a hawk whose audac

ity has sometimes been termed

recklessness, took the plunge

into opposition in typically

His surprise announcement

a week ago that he would

resign turned a meeting of Sha-

mir's Likud Party into chaos,

Although he said his priority

was preventing Israeli-Palesti-

nian talks, the burly trade and

industry minister told reporters

Sunday he wanted to replace

rent broad coalition govern-

ment remains intact he is un-

likely to have an opportunity

in a 1984 leadership contest by

a 58-42 per cent margin.

Shamir, 74, defeated Sharon

The 14-month-old broad

coalition government he heads

But so long as Israel's cur-

Shamir as Likud leader.

to challenge Shamir.

presumably as intended.

dramatic style.

fied with mere words to express itself," he said.

Khalaf said such extremists were now being armed and receive training, claiming that "Arab intelligence bodies" knew where the extremists were training in Arab countries and Iran. The tour bus attack has been blamed on Palestinian Islamic extremists who are independent of the PLO.

"What is the PLO expected to do? Shall it act as a guard for Israel? Our role is not to search Iyad, pointed out that "other for those who stage operations substitutes are emerging on the against Israel. We can hardly scene, who feel obliged to take a control our people, how can we control others?" he asked.

Khalaf said the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, supported by the United States, brought "sweeping dangers."

shows no signs of imminent collapse despite periodic crises

and threats by the dovish

Shamir to give a clearer com-

mitment to Israeli-Palestinian

But despite widespread cri-

ticism that it has failed to tack-

le either economic or political

problems, the alliance of Sha-

mir and Defence Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin of the Labour Par-

ty appears to guarantee con-

tinued life for the coalition.

Sharon quit the government

saying Israeli-Palestinian peace

talks threaten the Jewish state.

"I don't remember as danger-

ous a situation as we are facing

now," he told the news confer-

Shamir has proposed Palesti-

nian elections in the occupied

territories to choose repre-

sentatives who would negotiate

with Israel on limited self-rule.

ence.

Labour is pressing again for

Labour Party to withdraw.

But he told the official news- es military developments in "Israeli experts" have been repaper Al Injaz Al Watany that his Sudan said the report still does command, based in Equatoria's capital Juba, received a report that "three Israeli experts were

ported wounded in southern ly while helping the rebels, a government general says. He and a colleague also repe-

The generals said that the

An Ethiopia-based rebel

man, commander of the sprawling Equatoria region, did not claim to have confirmation that Israelis had been wounded in the 7-year-old conflict.

Washington is trying to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian

meeting in Cairo to prepare for

But Sharon said Israel

should tell the Americans

bluntly it is not interested. He

said Shamir's moves towards

negotiations threatened

Israel's existence by question-

ing its hold over Arab Jeru-

NEWS ANALYSIS

salem and the West Bank and

Gaza Strip, occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

Sharon, who ruthlessly paci-

fied the Gaza Strip in the 1970s

and had promised to crush the

26-month-old Palestinian up-

rising if made defence minister

again, repeated his view that Gaza refugee camps should be

razed and the occupants reset-

such elections.

Sharon stakes political ambitions on government collapse But he said the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had to remain under Israeli control. "It will be our right to be in

charge of the security in Judea,

Samaria (the West Bank) and Gaza," he added. "And that will be forever." Sharon, who was not averse to sniping at Shamir when inside the cabinet, will be even more direct in his attacks now as he tries to build broader

support inside Likud. But his greatest handicap is not his hardline positions, widely shared by many Likud members, including Shamir. He has to overcome suspi-

cions that his real goal has little to do with policy and much to do with a thirst for power. Storming out of government was in character but critics say

such gestures are aimed mainly at publicity or glory. In 1982 Sharon, then de-

of Lebanon that was initially described as a limited action to drive Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas away from the Israeli border. As the war developed into a

fence minister, led an invasion

siege of Beirut and a long, costly campaign, cabinet col-leagues accused Sharon of misleading them about the aims of the invasion. The public outcry in Israel

eventually forced Sharon to resign as defence minister. But in a display of unrepentent self-confidence, he ignored demands for his departure and remained in the cabinet as minister without portfolio.

His resignation as trade minister took effect Tuesday but he remains Central Committee chairman in Likud where an outspoken minority appears to support his goal of replacing Shamir as leader.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR JORDAN TELEVISION CHURCHES

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15-30 Koran	
15:40 Programme review	632785.
15:45 Children's programme	St. Jeesph Church Tel. 66
17:39 Educational programme	Church of the Assumed
18:00 News summary in Arabic	637440.
	De la Selle Church Tel. 6
18:05 Cairo news message	Terrassuta Church Tel: 6
18:39 Local programme	
29:86 News in Arabic	Church of the Amunci
20:30 Arabic series	623541.
21:30 Arabic programme	Anglican Church Tel. 62
23:00 News in Arabic	628543.
23:40 Play "Petra"	Armenian Catholic Ch
THE INTERNATION IN THE	771331.
	Armenian Orthodox Ch
PROGRAMME TWO	775261.
18:00 Documentary	St. Entraine Church Tel.
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WEATHER Refletin supplied by the Department of

It will be partly cloudy with expected scattered showers in the southern and central regions of the Kingdom and winds will be northwesterly moderate.

... 2/17 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aquba 22, Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aquba 32 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY MMAN:

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637055

Dr. Abdul Hafez Al Khawaja

623672 636730

ZARQA: Dr. Akram Haddad **EMERGENCIES**

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HOSPITALS . 813813/32

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Army, Marka ...
Queen Alia Hospital ... 664171/4 664164/6 777101/3 891611/15 .. 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital Zarqa National Hospital (09)983323 (09)991071 (09)986732 (02)275555

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Aqaba (RJ)
Cairo (RJ)
Dobai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:15 16:45 17:00

Madrid, Rome (RJ)
Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) Dubai (AZ) 10:00 10:05

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:15 13:00

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MARKET PRICES

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Jordan clinker shipment on way to the Philippines

By Nec Seti Special to the Jordan Times

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MARKET

Afghans and t

effect.

AMMAN - The first shipment of Jordanian clinker to the Philippines has left Aqube Port in implementation of an agreement concluded by the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), according to a company statement Tues-day. The ship, "Pearl," is carrying 11,000 tonnes of cement to the Philippines, according to the statement.

Jordan will export 1.5 million tonnes of cement to countries in Southeast Asia, North and South America, South Korea and West Africa, JCFC held negotiations with several Southeast Asian, West African and American countries in November 1989 and concluded agreements with them, according to Wache Al Sayegh, deputy director-general of the Cement Factory.

Sayegh told the Jordan Times in an earlier interview that according to the two agreements concluded, Jordan would export about one million tonnes of clinker to these countries. He did not give a breakdown of the exports to each country.

In order to better handle the increase of clinker export, the Agaba Port Authority decided after a study that a conveyor belt was needed to load the clinker from trucks into ships for export.

Sayegh said, that if a belt was imported, it would have cost ID 500,000 "so we decided against buying the belt and instead looked into the possibility of manufacturing it locally." He said that certain raw materials were peeded to manufacture that belt, which was completed in 55 days, but declined to say what sort of materials went into the con-

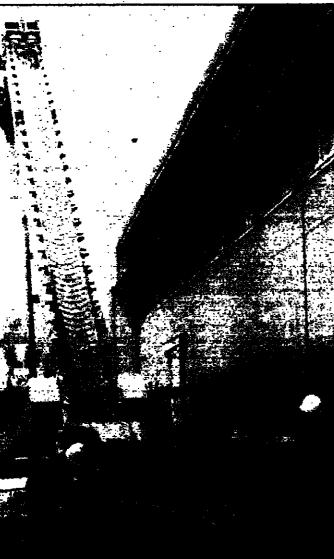
Sayegh said, however, that JD 2.865 worth of equipment was bought from the local market, around JD 8,878 worth of equipment was used from factory stocks and JD 30,000 worth of equipment was used from scraps at the factory, but again Sayegh declined any explanation what the scraps or stocks were. The project actually costs about JD 45,000.

Project engineer, Tabseen Al Shami, headed a team of 14 technical and mechanical engineers with "speed and effi-ciency," Sayegh said. They manufactured a conveyor belt with a loading espacity of 300 tonnes per hour, a length of 36 metres and a height of 15

Although the Pearl had ar-rived and left, the belt is not yet in Aqaba. "We are waiting for the port authority to tell us which berth to take the belt to." Shipping the belt to Aqaba entails a tedious process, for the factory would have to disassemble the belt and assemble it again in

Agaba, Sayegh said.

We are very pleased with the conveyor belt. It is locally designed and now we can produce clinker for local and export markets," Sayegh said. "If all goes smoothly, we have intend to manufacture more conveyor belts and increase our exports, Sayegh



The first locally-made conveyor belt employed this week to load coment about ships at Aqaba.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- ☆ Az exhibition of paintings by Alia Ammoura, Nahila Hilmi and
- Council countries at Jordan Electricity Authority.
- * An Iraci book exhibition at the Mu'ta University.
- studying Syrian archaeology" at the Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology at Yarmonk University.
- * An exhibition entitled "Models of the Jordanian plastic art" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

Soviet Cultural Centre. FILM

Cultural Centre - 8:00 p.m.



SIXTH GRADERS VISIT AL RA'I: A group of sixth grade students from the Amman Highness Prince Rashid Al Hassan, (fourth from

left), visited the Al Ra'i newspaper offices and press Tuesday. The visitors were briefed on how a newspaper is produced and what goes into it by Al Ra'l staff (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allam).

Price index on the rise, salaries remain frozen

AMMAN (Petra) — The prices past few months was about 32 per index in Jordan has been steadily rising while most wages and salaries remained frozen in the past year despite government efforts to deal with the situation, according to the Department of Statis-

The department has prepared a statistical bulletin to be published shortly indicating a rise in the index the past year at an average

rate of 33.8 per cent.

It said basic food commodities rose by 25 per cent, clothes and shoes by 77 per cent, housing by seven per cent, home apphances by 102 per cent, transport by 58 per cent, medical care by 41 per

cent, recreation by 98 per cent. The bulletin said that indications point to the fact that the trend of rising prices was contiquing.

External internal factors

Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda said in a statement that the rise in prices was due to external and internal causes.

The rise in the exchange rate of enhancing barter trade agreethe European currencies over the ments between Jordan and other

cent; Jordan imports a great deal of products from Europe, the minister said.

He said another external factor for the increase was that European countries were gradually removing all subsidies on exports which leads to a further rise of prices of European goods includ-ing dairy products.

Abul Huda said that inaccurate

statements and receipts by merchants about the cost of imported products resulted in higher costs.
"The Ministry of Supply is trying its best to control the situation and has cancelled earlier decisions in order to allow mer-

chants to make profits up to 15

per cent," the minister said. Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf agreed with Abul Huda's assessment and said that his ministry was now revising prices of locally produced industrial goods in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry. The Ministry of Industry and Trade was also maintaining and

countries to ensure the sale of various products at reasonable rates, Saqqaf said.

Two supply merchants Elia Nuqul and Mohammad Al Haj Deeb attributed the rise in prices to the high rate of foreign exchange against the Jordanian dinar, and also to the government-imposed duty on imported goods.

They said that the Customs Department charges a 15 per cent duty in tariffs and an additional 18 per cent on services.

Nazmi Al Abdullah director of the Customs Duty Department, said that most basic foodstuffs including dried milk, wheat, and rice were exempted from duty and were imported by the Ministry of Supply. He said other commodities including meat, lentils, chick peas, maize, onions, garlic and potatoes were not charged any import duty except a five per cent value added tax. Duty imposed on various other imported foodstuffs were designed to protect local industries, Abdullah explained.

He said that duty on imported luxuries like chocolates reached up to 90 per cent.

Ministry reinstates 26 more teachers

AMMAN (J.T) - Another 26 male and female teachers dis-missed from their jobs for political reasons and 18 women teachers whose applications were blocked on political grounds have now been reemployed by the Ministry of Education.

The announcement was made Tuesday by Minister of Education and Higher Educa-tion Mohammad Hamdan, who last week announced the reinstatement of 26 other teachers dismissed on similar grounds.

Hamdan said that he was making arrangements with the Civil Services Commission (CSC), which processes apdications for work in government offices, to give priority to teachers dismissed for political reasons. So far the Ministry of Education has re-appointed 70 of the dismissed teachers out of 298 teachers dismissed from Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The government decided earlier this mouth to reinstate all those who lost their jobs on political grounds.

Preparations under way for pollution workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) -- The Environmental Research Centre of the Royal Scientific Society is organising a regional workshop on air pollution.

The objectives of the workshop,

scheduled to be held Feb 26-28. are to review the activities and research efforts undertaken by the developing countries in the field of air pollution and to discuss and analyse methods and procedures to be followed when setting national air pollution standards, according to its

The workshop also aims at increasing the awareness of the importance of air pollution control in a global frame. Selected Arab and foreign experts will participate in the workshop in addition to selected staff of Arab universities and research centres, staff of companies, agencies, regional and international institutions and ministries concerned with protecting the environment, a press release issued by the organisers said.

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the International Development Research Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia and the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

The Environmental Research Centre has conducted a study supported by the International Development Research Centre-Canada to determine air pollution sources, types and degree in Amman which lasted for three years since 1986.

Good Samaritans step forward to help meet Jordan's cornea needs er, a young Jordanian who died in

AMMAN (J.T.) --- His Majesty King Hussein's concern over an eight-year-old child from Irbid in need of comeas and an appeal to the public made earlier this week by the director of the Eye Bank in Jordan seem to have paid

Reports from the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the local press said a Jordanian expatriate living in West Germany had called Radio Jordan, which first reported about the boy, Jafaar from Irbid, and the King's immediate response, and offered to arrange for his flight and accom-modation in West Germany where a famous optician would

provide the corneas and carry out the operation free of charge.
The good Samaritan expatriate

AMMAN (Petra) — The national radio stations of Jordan, Egypt,

Iraq and North Yemen, the four

countries of the Arab Coopera-

tion Council (ACC), will jointly

cover the ACC summit sessions,

Saturday, Feb. 24, according to

Radio Jordan Director Ibrahim

at the conclusion of meetings by

directors of radio stations in the

four countries to plan future

cooperation and to coordinate

efforts in covering the delibera-

Shahzadeh made the statement

Shahzadeh.

which are scheduled to start here

is Dr. Butros Habib Al Tawil, who told Radio Jordan that he was now opening a special account at a West German bank to raise donation from Jordanian expatriates in West Germany to cover the cost of the operation and the boy's stay in West Ger-

King Hussein voiced appreciation to Tawil for his assistance and said he was willing to cover the cost of the boy's flight and accommodation, according to

Radio Jordan's call-in programme has received numerous telephone calls from Jordanians here and abroad offering financial help and their own corneas after death to the Jordan Eye Bank, which is housed at the

tions of the coming summit.

The directors of the four sta-

tions: Hilmi 'Al Ballak from

Egypt, Ahmad Noubi of North

Yemen and Hareth Abboud of

Iraq and Shahzadeh signed mi-

nutes of the talks at the final

directors reached agreement on

broadcasting joint 60-minute

weekly variety programmes dur-

ing the coming month of

He told the Jordan News

session, Shahzadeh said.

ACC radio stations to jointly cover summit

Agency, Petra, that the four and programme production and

He said that the programmes, tions would make a joint inven-

Jordan University Hospital in Amman, Petra said

help cover the cost of Jafaar's King Hussein and Prime Minister Mudar Badran have

announced their contribution of their comeas after death to the Eye Bank, according to a report in the local press. Several other prominent Jordanian personalities including Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid and Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, have also offered their corneas for this nanitarian cause.

A report in the local press said that the corneas of Khaled Khad-

countries and broadcast in the

morning through dusk at the end

of the day's fast, will cover Arab

World affairs and Islamic topics.

According to Shahzadeh,

agreement was also reached for

the exchange of radio announcers

on facilities to be given by each of

the four stations to one another

and on exchanging religious se-

rials featuring historic events. In

addition, he said, the four sta-

to be produced jointly by the four tory sheet on their programmes

a road accident, were donated to One expatriate told Radio Jor- a 20-year-old woman who hapdan he was offering DM 5,000 to pened to be the sister of a traffic policeman who was reported the accident two months ago. The police succeeded in requesting the family of the deceased to offer his sister the young man's corneas, the report said.

Eye Bank Director Fuad Sayegh appealed to the public Saturday for donations of cor-

He said that each comea costs at least \$750 to be paid in the country of origin abroad for preparations before implantation. According to Sayegh, earlier appeals to the public to offer corneas went unheeded.

materials highlighting the ACC's

major activities as well as technic-

al, scientific and sports events in

Following the final session,

Minister of Information Ibrahim

Izzeddin met with the four direc-

tors to review the agreements.

Izzeddin urged the four stations

to give ample attention to train-

ing of staff and to encouraging

news exchange and radio prog-

rammes and to coordinate future

the four countries.

struggle and the Palestinian and will exchange weekly news

able to the Jordan Times. In the name of Jordanian writers we congratulate all freedom fighters, all free men and women and all honest people who look to

steadfastness.

been practised against your people for so many decades is also being practised by the rulers of Israel against Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular.

International fair displays wide array of Arabic books

Ramadan.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An ideal entertainment centre for many book lovers was inaugurated by Minister of Information Ibrahim lzzidine Tuesday; it promised an array of Arabic books on Islam. philosophy, psychology and an impressive selection of children's books.

The second Amman international book fair, held at the Universal Auto Centre (near the University of Jordan), displays a good range of English academic books, medical dictionaries and computer instruction books.

The 10-day book fair has on show publications of close to 150 publishing houses from Jordan,

Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, set up kiosks at the fair but there Egypt, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Tunisia, Libya, England, the United States, Turkey, Cyprus, Switzerland, the Soviet Union and West Germany.

But although the number of publishing houses participating in the book fair is very impressive, many visitors to the book fair said they had expected a larger selection of topics, especially contemporary political books and

"I expected to find more English and French books, especially that these types of books are usually missing in the local market," said a young female visitor.

A few publishing houses have

were no books on the shelves Tuesday. "Over books arrived in a truck which also carried glass and toys so they are still held by the customs until an added fee is determined," a representative of Al Dawa Publishing House in

A dictionary which drew special attention was an illustrated "Arab Child Dictionary" in Arabic, English and French published by the Ghassan House for Publishing

and Distribution. Dictionaries were a special attraction for visitors to a special

kiosk by Longmans which had on show several aides to English writing and understanding.

Egypt explained to the Jordan

Petra Bank dispute remains stalemated

(Continued from page 1) Anani denied at Tuesday's press

onference that he had said such a thing, and explained that he had told the president of the JBIEA that there was one employee who that there was one employee who had signed irregular documents.
"But I was talking about one employee not all," Anani commented, adding that what he said was completely "twisted" and relayed to the employees.

At the sit-in, employees carried banners, some of which were presented by supportive associations.

sented by supportive associations and institutions, demanding that "slander" against the bank must stop, and praising the unity of all employees in their "struggle for our just rights." The banners said that the protest would continue until their demands were met.

Another employee said that the ment must bear the current manas sibility for "the destruction of the bank along with others who were involved in corruption under the previous management." She added that any decision gov-

erament officials might take to

liquidate the bank was unacceptable, "and His Majesty King Hussein would not accept that 3,000 peopole who depend on this bank be on the streets. It is up to the King to make decisions for the bank."

"If the management had any dignity, they would resign. We want an honest and clean management that truly has the best interest of the bank in mind, and we swear we will work whole-heartedly to make it the best bank, because no one cares about this national institotion as much as we employees do," said another outspoken female employee. Several Lower House deputies

from the Democratic Bloc were present at the sit-in to express lidarity with the employees. Issa Madanat, a deputy from

Karak, told the Jordan Times that the employees had every right to protest in this manner because they had tried all means to achieve their rights with the management to no

"All the employees are extremely protective of their institution.

but they are suffering as a result of problems created by the previous management. Unfortunately, the nagement is not any b and has done nothing to alleviate these problems," according to Madanat.

JBIEA President Haidar Rashid, who was present during the sit-in which began at 8 in the morning and lasted until 2:30 p.m., said the association had sent messages to King Hussein and the prime minister to invervene and bringing to account all "corrupt forces" of the previous and present management of the bank and clear

the name of the bank.

employees in every bank in the capital to join the Petra Bank employees in their protest against the management committee Wednesday after their working hours at 2 p.m. Rashid said he expected a large number to show up, considering that many banks, institutions and professional and labour unions Tuesday seat messages of solidarity with the Petra Bank employees in their protest.

The association also called on all

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SSC to finance JPA housing project

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Mahdi Al Farhan Tuesday held talks with Jordanian Press Association (JPA) President Hashem Khreisat and JPA board members on issues pertaining to financing a JPA housing project. Farhan and the JPA delegation agreed in principle to supply the corporation with the association's statute, law and the housing project's plans. Farhan voiced the corporation's readiness to provide all necessary facilities to the project. The association's administrative committee will hold an extraordinary meeting Thursday to work out the details of the project and to ensure that all documents requested are presented to the corporation.

Solar energy talks review 4 papers

AMMAN (Petra) — The first international conference on the use of solar energy in combatting soil diseases Tuesday discussed four working papers. The first paper dealt with the physical effects of using solar energy in sterilising the soil while the second and the third discussed the effects of solar disinfection of pesticides and bacteria, and the fourth dealt with the effects of solar disinfection on harmful herbs. The conference is organised by the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Physicians to attend Cairo conference

AMMAN (Petra) - A Jordanian medical team headed by the president of the Arab Heart Surgeons Association (AHSA), left for Cairo Tuesday to take part in a three-day conference organised by the AHSA in cooperation with the Egyptian Heart Surgeons Society. The Jordanian delegation will present three working papers on heart transplantation in Jordan, congenital diseases and a catheterisation. Taking part in the conference will be heart surgeons from the Arab World, the United States, West Germany and the United Kingdom.

'Oldest' man dies at 130

AMMAN (J.T.) - Haj Mu'in Ibrahim Abu Dalbouh, who is alleged to have been the oldest man in Jordan, has died in Jerash at the age of 130 years. According to his son Abdul Latif, his father had been working in livestock trade and agriculture until his death. He said his father was moving continuously between Jerash and his birthplace, the village of Al Kfeir, on foot and that he never took a bus or a taxi during his regular travel from his village to Jerash. He added that his father never visited a doctor, except one week before his death when he fell sick.

Refinery reports higher sales

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company achieved an increase of two per cent in its sales of oil products during January, compared with the same month last year. The company's sales jumped from 283,130 tonnes in January 1989 to 290,074 tonnes last month an increase of 6,944 tonnes in its gross

Writers association congratulates Mandela

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) Tuesday sent a telegram to South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela congratulating him on his release from prison after 27 years and expressing solidarity with the struggle of South African blacks.

In the telegram, signed by JWA President Abdul Rahim Omar, described Mandela as "the symbol of freedom, the giant of Africa," and drew parallels between the South African black

Following is the full text of the telegram, which was made avail-

you with all the support, love and pride in your heroic struggle and

The racial tyranny that has

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cheresu, Mes-guich, Mnouchitine, Planchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- News! Abdullah at Abdul Hamcod Shoman Foundation (10
- A photography exhibition by Samer Al Tai at the Yarmouk University. * An exhibition of stamp collection of the Arab Cooperation
- * An exhibition entitled "Twenty years of French contribution to

* A photographic exhibition on the Soviet armed forces at the

A French film entitled "Le Lieu du Crime" at the French

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

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Arab self-reliance — the name of the game

SEVERAL Members of Parliament raised the need to

reactivate the Eastern Front during last week's deliberations. Their call for bolstering Arab defences came in the wake of the impending Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the disclosure that the peace process in the Middle East has reached a dead end. There was also a parallel recognition by those parliamentarians that Syrian-Iraqi relations need to be not only restored but also developed into a truly brotherly path before this aspired goal of reactivating the Eastern Front can take full shape and substance. In other words, this missing link in Arab relations needs to be redressed if Arab defences are to reach the level and degree of cooperation and coordination necessary to face the new Israeli threats. One does not have to be an expert in geopolitical strategies to realise that only when Arab defences are adequate there would be a real hope for regaining Arab territories over the negotiating table or otherwise. And as long as the Eastern Front is in disarray, there is not much hope for the ongoing peace process to come to fruition. The projected Arab summit will be an ample opportunity to address this aspect of inter-Arab relations and hopefully the concerned Arab countries will realise then and there that they can no longer afford the luxury of maintaining Arab animosities in the face of the growing Israeli threats and the changes that are occurring in the axis of power on the international arena. With this assessment in mind, Jordan has left no stone unturned in order to affect and realise harmonious relations between Baghdad and Damascus. And it is no accident that Israel's initial reaction to the recent calls for the reactivation of the Eastern Front has been one of concern and anxiety. To be sure, the breathing of new life into the defunct Eastern Front would have more than Israel in mind. The need to start a nucleus of joint Arab action has become all the more pressing in the face of the many changes occurring on the international arena, especially between the East and the West. With the new regrouping of powers in the world, the Arab World has become vulnerable to intimidation and threats more than ever. Self-reliance by the Arab Nation has got to be the name of the new game. Otherwise, the designs on the Arab countries would reach anmanageable proportions. In this vein, the Arab Cooperation Council member states are best positioned to take the early initiative in forging a common defence strategy that could serve as the nucleus for a greater and broader Arab defence strategy encompassing the entire Eastern Front countries. Fortunately, two Arab summits are now in the cards: one on the ACC level and another on the Arab League scale. Hopefully, the two venues would provide the necessary fora for the

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

elaboration of this common Arab defence strategy.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday focused attention on a statement by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in which she criticised all attempts to uproot the Palestinian Arabs from their homes and lands for the sake of settling new Jewish immigrants in their place. The paper said that the British premier displayed her total resentment of this idea describing it as a real aggression on and violation of all human rights. Thatcher's views contrast sharply with those of the United States which has been condoning. Israel's aggression on the Arabs and supporting Israel's perpetual occupation of Arab lands, the paper noted. The United States for its part continues the drive to help Israel to build settlements and to absorb Jewish immigrants at the expense of Palestinian lands and rights, the paper added. We had hoped that Thatcher's stand would be copied by all the other members of the European Community in their dealings with the Middle East situation, the paper said. It said that the Arabs want all the Europeans to support the concept of swapping land for peace and a halt for all Israeli atrocities in the occupied Arab lands. The Arabs do not want the Europeans to remain prisoners of injustice done to the Jews by the Nazis and they do not want the Europeans to remain impassive to the Israeli criminal action leaving the American to have a free hand in dealing with the situation in the Middle East area, the paper added. The Arabs, the paper concluded, do not wish to see the Americans having a free hand providing the Israelis with all sorts of assistance to maintain their occupation of

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the question of official telephones installed at the homes of senior officials. Salah Abdu Sanad says the practice of granting such officials free telephones, obviously for official business, is costing the country a fortune. It is true that certain officials need to be contacted after office hours in view of the nature of their work and the urgency of the business, but these are only very few and not as many as those now enjoying the bliss of having official telephones installed in their homes, the paper continued. It said that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has already cancelled, all official telephones even those installed at mayors' homes with a view to saving unnecessary expenses. All other government departments, the writer said, should follow the example of this ministry which has indeed saved a lot of money for the treasury by its wise action.

Commenting on the continued Soviet Jewish influx into occupied Palestine Sawt Al Shaab daily said that all official Arab information services have been tackling the issue with articles attacking this hostile move. This attack has specially gained momentum in view of Shamir's declaration of his intention to create a greater Israel benefiting from this great influx. As long as all Arabs are agreed that the Soviet Jewish immigration constitutes a grave danger to the Arabs angeneral and the Palestinians in particular, then one can reasonably assume that a joint and collective action ought to be taken, the paper continued. It said it is now clear that the Soviet Union and the United States are playing a dirty game on the Arabs and the Arabs have no alternative but to confront this serious situation with one accord

Economic Forum

Floating interest rates: Premature but compulsory

THE full-fledged floatation of interest rates began on Feb. 3, 1990. That step was taken after extensive consultations between the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on the one hand and commercial banks and finance companies on the other. Actually, a draft of the memorandum of CBJ decreeing floatation had been distributed to banks two months earlier and was refined in the light of the bankers' remarks. However, the tactics rather than the substance were the subject of consultation. These included various scenarios on the possible voluntary adoption of minimum rates on deposits and the impact of this on the costs of funds.

And the whole thing was largely a formality because interest rates were practically floated almost a year ago except that floatation of interest on loans took the form of a 9 per cent ceiling and a freely determined commission charge, a combination designed to get round the old Ottoman ordinance which outlawed interest rates higher than 9 per cent.

The IMF connection

There is no question that this floatation was one of the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Independently of the so-called economic adjustment programme, the IMF has tirelessly for years preached Jordan to float interest rates, together with other "liberal" measures such as the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. Under the accord of Jordan with IMF, the floatation became a must. Now it is left to the wise men in Jordan to labour in order to minimise the "blessings" said to be entailed in this floatation at a time when they had hardly gotten away with the remedying of the destructive results of the dinar's devaluation which was another "must" in itself.

LDCs: Special case

Being one manifestation of the interplay of market forces, floating interest rates should, in theory at least, be welcome. But this theorisation is tailored to the sophisticated markets of developed countries. Its premature injection into the highly imperfect markets of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) could be countries and extra productive. Beings to allow for that example lead to be counter productive. Failure to allow for that could lead to jumps in the dark.

In LDCs, monetisation of the economy has not gone far enough. Liquidity preference is strong and self-finance is characteristic of great many businesses, especially in commerce. Information is not sufficiently permeated and loans are sometimes acquired interest-free from relatives, friends and neighbours. This phenomenon is magnified in Islamic societies where interest is sometimes equated with usury. For all these reasons, demand for credit is hardly a function of interest rates which therefore fail to be a good allocator of funds. Thus floating rates effect on resource allocation in LDCs will be different from the pattern that prevails in developed countries, portrayed in textbooks, preached by the IMF and finally marketed in replication by enthusiastic disciples of market forces.

Sarcastic assumptions

There is a host of naive arguments about the virtues of freely wavering interest rates in a country like Jordan. One argument claims it will check capital flight. This is ridiculous if only because it assumes that capital flight has been triggered by low interest rates on dinar deposits. A different version of this argument goes

even as far as saying that higher interest rates will serve to convert dollar deposits into dinar deposits as if the interest differential were the decisive factor which ignited the movement of funds to dollar deposits in the first place, let alone the implicit assumption that floatation leads necessarily to higher rates.

A more naive viewpoint maintains that floating rates will boost saving. This is a grossly wrong notion because interest rates determine the allocation of already generated savings to competing investments (deposits, stocks, bonds etc.) but they do not create them initially. That creation is the task of other forces (income levels, life cycle, permanent income).

The all-purpose argument

Another argument is the classical one which holds that floating interest rates improves the allocation of funds in behalf of efficient enterprises. This is a superficially good argument very commonly used, or abused, in the context of primitive economic analysis because it is so ambiguous as to mean anything, if necessary, and also so non-specific and non-committing as to mean nothing, if necessary as well. Efficient enterprises can defeat inefficient ones, drive them out of market and/or win scarce resources under floating and unfloating interest rate systems and they do that whether interest rates are at the level of 7 per cent or 15 per cent. Besides, interest forms only a fraction of production costs. Only a fraction of that fraction will be due to floatation of interest rates and is certainly not good to build a policy, if not a theory, on it.

Floating bids rates up

Apparently, the implicit assumption in the above arguments must be that floating brings about higher rates, because otherwise they crumble. However, this assumption has turned out to be true in the case of Jordan but it is not the norm. Where we start from a low rate base, as we did in Jordan, floating forces rates upwards. It has raised interest by an average of 2 per cent on deposits and 3 per cent on loans.

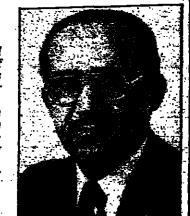
It is not commendable to rush to conclusions in such a short period of time. The Feb. 3 floatation of interest rates has not worked itself completely through the economy and any potential rise in rates will not show up in the short run. It is my conviction that floatation will push rates higher and higher in the medium and long run if it is a genuine one. And this is a big "if". Actually the CBJ is working hard to check any undesirable rises in interest on loans, through moral suasion not market intervention, and banks are co-operating with the CBJ to that end. But, can that

Shortcomings of floating rates

The main objection of floating rates in LDCs stems from the absence of a dependable (market) mechanism to steer rates up and down, in line with the business cycle and the socio-economic requirements of the country. Any developing country can easily unleash interest rates but then the question is whether it can harness them thereafter.

In advanced countries, such a mechanism is existent. This is why one can say that in practical terms there is nothing such as floating rates; they are controlled either directly by decrees (in most LDCs) or indirectly through market intervention and policy

Dr. Abdaila Malki is the general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan — a job he has held since 1981. He is also editor of "Banks in Jordan" magazine. He has written extensively on economic issues in Jordan newspapers and magazines. Today he writes his first weekly column in the Jordan Times. The column will appear every Wednesday.



announcements (in advanced countries).

Another shortcoming is that floating rates add to costs. This hits industries and low-income borrowers. One question is whether the social fabric, let alone the production system, can tolerate rising interest rates, especially on housing loans and when it might crack under the pressure of soaring rates. This aspect becomes more critical if we are after achieving real interest rates. And this must be our goal because the system of floating interest rates does not work without it. (Remember the alleged virtues of floating pre-mentioned earlier). And because demand for credit is not sensitive to interest rates in LDCs, interest rate rises tend to fan the flames of inflation.

Not only that. The classic notion maintains that higher interest rates combat inflation because they push up costs and thus curtail demand for credit. In at least as far as demand for consumption purposes is concerned, the devaluation of the dinar has sent costs, and thereby prices, skyhigh; high indeed to the extent that there is no room left for any price rises which can be demand-curtailing such as those emanating from higher interest rates. In other words, all curtailable demand has already been nipped out.

Public outcry

To conclude, floating of interest rates serves mainly the interests of banks thanks to the bargaining power edge they have. Thus the authorities have to step in so as to protect bank customers, stem the burst of public outcry and deal with a stream of justified and unjustified complaints against banks and high interest rates. The commercial banking sector stands to be the main beneficiary of floating rates although some small banks

might suffer.

It is futile to make a fuss about floating, now and as long as our commitments under the IMF accord are there. The question to be pondered is whether the damage inflicted by floating rates will be reversible once that accord is terminated and how to minimise such damage. It is noteworthy that the amendment to CBJ lawwhich legalised floating was deliberately worded as to allow for its abolishing at any time. Of course I, for one, hope that the system of floating interest rates will work against all odds. I know I am not alone. I had the same hope when the Jordanian dinar wasfloated (devalued). But sadly enough, that was a tragically frustrated hope because, as you all know, devaluation has not worked. Will we be more lucky this time!?

Irish ambassador: Ireland aware of strong EC-Arab ties

buted to the EC Newsletter the following statement on his government's programme during its six-month term.

IRELAND assumes the presidency of the European Community for the six months beginning on Jan. 1, 1990 against a background of historic change in the Community and in Europe as a whole. It is as the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Charles J. Haughey has said, "a time of new hope for all Europeans. East and West. Momentous events are taking place daily. The ideological walls that kept the people apart are crumbling as surely as the Berlin Wall. Patterns which had been fixed for two generations since the World War II are shifting and changing with almost unbelievable rapidity."

and vision. The Community's response, to this challenge will be of crucial importance, not just to the Community itself and to Eastem Europe but also to other countries throughout the world. At Strasbourg on Dec. 8 and 9, 1989, under the the presidency of France, the Community decided the broad lines of its response, namely to proceed with its policies of greater unity and integration and also to support the heroic efforts of the people of Eastern Europe to build for themselves a new society on the sound principles of democracy, individual freedom and the rule

The focus of the Irish presidency will be, therefore, (i) to continue to make prog-

As Ireland assumed the EC presidency at the beginning of this changes present the Community year, the Irish ambassador to year, Antoin Magnaforida with an enormous challenge throughout the twelve member areas of the world. The Irish concerned, including the PLO, conference, which was held in Jordan, Antoin Macunfraidh, which must be faced with courage states of the Community; presidency is keenly aware of the that a just and lasting settlement Paris on Dec. 22, gave a welcome who is based in Baghdad, contri- and vision. The Community's re(ii) to advance the preparations strong and close links which bind can be reached.

Paris on Dec. 22, gave a welcome boost to the Twelve's relations (ii) to advance the preparationsfor economic and monetary union. Such a union is a logical complement to the development

> tions of stability and to facilitate economic growth; (iii) to promote the adoption of forward-looking policies and measures to support the peoples of Eastern Europe in their efforts to achieve democratic freedom including, in particular, the commencement of negotiations on

the setting up of an European

of a single market. It, too, must

be pursued rigorously through

policies designed to create condi-

Although it is natural that the (i) to continue to make prog-ress towards the completion of dramatic developments in East-ern Europe should attract the the internal market by further attention of the European Community

the Community to the Arab

World. The Tweleve have consistently called for a comprehensive and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the position of the Twelve is clearly set out in the Madrid declaration, which was reiterated at the European Council meeting in Strasbourg. As president, Ireland will do its utmost to make progress towards

a peace settlement. The Tweleve welcome the efforts currently under way to launch a first-ever Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as a step on the

path to peace.
Only through discussion bebank for reconstruction and detween the parties directly involved will there be a resolution of this problem. And, in the Twelve's view, it is only through an international peace conference

Ireland is also gravely concerned at the continuing abuses of human rights in the occupied territories, which are not only deplored for their own sake, but also because they cause attitudes to harden and are not conducive to a peaceful solution. Sadly, on Jan. 14 the Twelve had to make representations yet again to the Israeli authorities on their violent suppression of demonstrations.

In their demarche, they again recalled the importance for Israel's relations with the Twelve of full respect for the human rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

As president, Ireland will facilitate the implementation of the increased Community aid to the Palestinian people announced by the European Council, thereby contributing to their economic

with the whole of the Arab World and successfully relaunched and restructured the Euro-Arab dialogue. Ireland looks forward to holding, under the new structures, the next meeting of the general committee of the dialogue in Dublin during our presidency, when we hope to see the adoption of a number of practical projects of mutual benefit.

It is clear that, internally and externally, the next six months pose many challenges to the Community. The Irish presidency faces those challenges with confidence, relying on the spirit of compromise and the sense of common endeavour which are the hallmark of our partners in the development of the Community to date - Newsletter for EC in

elson Mandela describes prison brutalities

By Rich Mkhondo

SOWETO, South Africa -Freed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, describing brutalities he and other prisoners suffered during his 27 years in ail, said the treatment could

have broken many men. "The acts of brutality were too numerous for me to specify. Some of them could have broken many good men," he told jour-ualists outside his Soweto home at the weekend.

"At the beginning the treat-ment was very harsh and even brutal. Many prisoners were assaulted," said the African National Congress (ANC) leader. Mandela, 71, described how Neville Alexander, one of South Africa's respected academics, was assaulted and said another prisoner, university lecturer Andrew Masondo, had his shoul-

"They then dug a hole in the cell, buried another prisoner but left his head and face exposed so that he could breathe. When he cried for water to drink, they urinated into his mouth," he said. Mandela, who was imprisoned for life in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white rule, said he was punished for refusing to do tasks he considered humiliating.

The prisoners decided to fight back right from the start and earned the respect of their jailers.
"If a man fights back, he is,

likely to get more respect then he would if he capitulated," Mandela added.

reducing the obstacles to com-

"On the very first day that I arrived on Robben island prison, we were marching from the quarry at the rate at which we felt was a dignified way of walking.
"The deputy commissioner of

the prison resented that. He ordered us to run. We refused. Some people were assaulted, others were charged. "They took us to a cell filled with water and seasthed us. The search consisted of taking off our

clothes, searching them, and throwing them into the water. "We did not know what to do because the cell was wet, our clothes were wet. We had violent exchanges with the warders, that was all we could do."

Mandela and nine others spent nearly two decades on Robben Island, a penal colony in the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Town. He was forced to break rocks in a quarry for about 12 years.

"If something happened out-side, like political demonstrations against the government, they would immediately take it out on

in 1982 Mandela and the others, including his closest com-rade Walter Sisulu, were transferred to Pollsmoor prison outside Cape Town. After he was admitted to hospital in August 1988 for tuberculosis, Mandela was kept in a prison bungalow near Paarl. Most of his colleagues were



eleased last October but Mande- ; la said that the three men charged was not freed until February 11, a few days after South African the ban on the ANC and other dissident groups.

'Very close friends'

In a separate interview Mande-

with granding him during his finel years of capitality in a South Afri-President F.W. de Klerk lifted can jail had become his "very.

Mandela told Time magazine in its February 26 issue that his prison "sacrifice" had not been in

"It is an achievement for a man to do his duty on earth irrespective of the consequences," Mandela said.

He said he would meet again with his three jailers at Victor Verster prison farm, where he was held during the final leg of his imprisonment.

"I got on very well with all of them," Mandela said. "We became very close friends." Mandela identified the three

guards as Major Marais, who he said was in charge of the prison farm, Warrant Officer Gregory and Warrant Officer Swart. The black leader said that "from seven in the morning to

four in the afternoon," he had virtually lived with Swart in a house on the prison farm. During Mandela's early years of imprisonment and forced labour on Robben Island he and other ANC officials had slept in A tiny one-man stone cells lit only

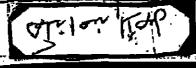
by a 40-watt bulb and furnished with a bed roll and mat. Mandela told Time that although these early prison experiences had been "very hard" he was never brutally assaulted, although many of his colleagues

Mandela was also asked how seriously he took reports of threats against his life.

There is no threat whatsoever from the so-called radical left," Mandela said. "The only threat can be from the right wing."

He added that he was not concerned about possible vio people will protect me." Mandela was asked when South Africa's blacks would be

"I am no prophet," Mandela replied. "I cannot say."



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Who is complaining?

By Adman Agil Saed

Adnan Agil Saed's light-hearted column will appear in this space

THE other day, I was visiting a friend who is into everything construction, import/expert, distribution, consultancy services, you make it, he has it, I found him is a state of agitation over the recent move by the Lubour Ministry to freeze instance of work permits to non-Jordanium. "I am about to be ruleed," he instended, reaching across the table for a gloss of mater to swallow a couple of observing looking pills. "See, I am about to have a stroke," he said, "If I have to sely on Jordanians to look after my

usiness, I suight he well pack up and leave."

Take it easy, I said, trying to asothe bles. After all, the day will
have soomer or later when he will have so choice but to employ Jordanism. "But, do you know how much I have invested in my business?" he countered, I said I didn't have the least idea. Never mind, he said, but the point is that he has come to depend on non-Jordanism to run an efficient organisation. "Some of them have been with me for over 10 years, and if I have to fire them now I will have to start all over again," he appeared to be on the verge of them?

But then, I reminded him, he should have picked up and trained Jordanism on the first place. Oh no, he said. "Who would agree to work 12 to 14 hours a day, accept to share a room with three others, tall in sick once every year, and not wave laws and regulations to my face at every given cha

I made some sympathetic noises and inquired what he planned to do to get out of his discusse. "To be insuest, I do not know," he replied. "For example, I have this man from the Far East. He drafts and types all my business letters, sends all my telexes and facsimiles, handles the word processor like a buby, keeps m investory of my food distribution company, knows when to order stoff, goes to the bank, like my vise applications and maintains my stoff, goes to the bank, like my visa applications and maintains.

American Express accounts, He is in the office at 8 in the more and I give him a lift to the service and at 9 in the evening when he is not updating the flies. Now, tell me how many Jordanians do I need to replace him?"

Five from the first look, unless he opts for a super robot, I told him. "Well, that's what I am trying to tell you. If I lose him, then I am in real trumble," he posseded the table.

How much does he pay the man? I impaired. "That's not the point," he said, trying to evade the question. But, I pressed, he should be paying him at least JD 1,000 a month. "Am I craxy?" he got agitated again. "I give him 175 dinars and a place to sleep; and he pays half of the JD 300 work persuit fees, and gets a ticket home and back every three years."

That's not fair, I pointed out. "Well, he is not complaining. And I had heave?" Him it he can be not the next plane. I had he won! the

If he doesn't like it he can leave on the next plane. I het he won't get half the salary at home."

Well then. If the man is so easily dispensible with, why the ninger? I could not help but ask.
"Will you please leave me alone to sort out my problems on my

own?" came the quick retort.
On my way out I abnost collided with an oriental-looking man carrying a tea tray in one hand and a bunch of papers in the other. No doubt, he was the employee in question. But my friend apparently forgot to tell me about his tea-making skills.

Israelis carry out killings

'ab ti 40 per cent incresse ever the figure 13 months earlier.
"There was an increase in tor-Euro-Arab E ture in detention, including the rence, which we use of electric shock, and signifion Dec. 22. Here cant increases in collective to the Twelets punishments such as house dehe whole of the Art molitions and broad economic

necessfully related ctured the Emis conference. Ireland loss is AI Haq last year had its work Ireland loss is AI Haq last year had its working under the shonoured by an award from the 18 Human Rights Foundation set up the next mass by former U.S. President Jimmy all committed it Carter. Israeli diplomats boycotin Dubin doing ted the presentation ceremony y, when we have last December in the United it of a number last December in the United

ion of a number of States.

cts of matter of the group said its researchers had documented cases of "elecis clear that the tric shocks, burnings, beating of nally, the near a feet, squeezing of the testicles as

many challest well as sleep and food deprivation munity. The limit and forcing detainees to stand for those challeng blong periods in awkward posie, relying on the tions. nomise and is! A spokesman for the Israeli non endervor army, which administers the non characters the name of the larmy "is not responsible for inter-

Ment of irogations but we have denied all use of torture." Shin Bet secret police, who

have frequently been accused of

excesses by human rights groups

question prisoners. Al Hac said at least five people have died at the hands of interrogators since the uprising began in December 1987 — two died in 1988 and three last year. Some 50,000 Palestinians had

been detained during the 26month-long uprising against the occupation, had also increased collective

punishment through more demolition or scaling of houses. It said 228 houses were either entirely destroyed or had rooms sealed last year because of army charges against residents. This policy had left 3,152 people homeless.

Al Hag expressed little confi-dence that Palestinians could find remedies for abuses through appeals to the legal system. The report noted that the israeli high court had not overturned one single order for a

house demolished. It said 95 per cent of all trials in the occupied territories ended in convictions. In addition, 10,000 people had been held without trial during the uprising for terms that could be renewed inde-

Palestinian to be deported or a

Arab cartoonists cultivate humour despite restrictions

By Found Hamden

MANAMA (DPA) - "The Arab World is probably the one area in the world that needs cartoonists the most," the editorin-chief of the weekly Al-Majalla

Abdul Rahman Al Rashed added, "if it is true that satire springs from the womb of adversity, then we may regard the whole Arab region as a vast gallery and every Arab a carica-

turist."

Al Majalla which publishes drawings by well-known Lebanese cartoonist Mahmud Kahil, sponsored an exhibition in Bahrain recently diplaying carica-tures from many Arab states.

Their drawings depict humanrights abuses, censorship, pover-ty, social injustice and the suffer-ing of the Palestinian people. In one cartoon, Raid Arawi from Iraq shows a general marching on a globe and ruthlessly destroying nature with a lawn

mower shaped like a tank. Cartoons by Mohammad Al Khuneifer, a Saudi free lancer portray the situation of women in

"Cartoonists manage to impose

Omier, editor-in-chief of the Asharq Al Awsat. "They have a much wider range expression than journalists,'

Many caricaturists privately voice trustration with limits set on their works, which lead to selfimposed censorship. They point out that they must not make fun of leaders, and topics like religious activism are taboo.

"I can sometimes describe the effects of a policy, but not the man behind it. The problem is that modern Arab mentality does not tolerate sharp criticism," one caricaturist said on condition of anonymity.

"I am careful because even our society cannot accept cheeky cartoons. I have no illusions that I'm in Europe," he added. "It is a miracle that I haven't yet lost my sense of humour." The first modern Arab carica-

turist was Egyptian Yaaqub San-

nu, who was active in Cairo in the second half of the 19th century. His satire magazine Abu Nazzara Zarqa, the first in the Arab World, was shut down by the British because it attacked their colonial rule, social injustice and

The first generation of Arab their opinion," said Othman Al cartoonists came from Egypt, a

for their sense of humour, and their works dealt with the situation in their country.

ern Arab caricaturist was Naji Al

people who lost their homeland. His cartoons were for Palestine," Al Hashemi told DPA. "His sadness was provocative. It had a new perspectives."

levant even years later," he said. "And Naji could do it."

Today, almost every Arab newspaper and magazine has at least one cartoonist on its staff. And their themes are pan-Arab, that is, the Palestinian cause, the war in Lebanon, human rights and other topics. Perhaps the best-known mod-

Ali, a Palestinian who grew up in a Lebanese refugee camp. influenced others like Khaled Al Hashemi in Bahrain, an architect who publishes his cartoons in the Manama-based daily Al Ayam. "Naji's cartoons were sad but not pessimistic. He represented a

positive message and it showed Al Hashemi added, "a cartoon should depict reality and be understood by everybody. Its message should be alive and re-

In his cartoons for the London-based Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas, Al Ali used the figure of a body he

named "Hanzhala," the Arabic and I have enough problems, and name for a bitter desert plant. my cartoons are no jokes." "Hanzhala was born out of bitterness in the diaspora," he once said. Criticised for his sad drawings, he replied: "My people scribed by British press reports as opinions.

Naji Al Ali was shot dead in London in 1987. Authorities later

an Israeli intelligence service (Mossad) agent who was behind the murde

Naji Al Ali was the first Arab deported an Israeli diplomat, de- caricaturist killed for his political

1990 — European Year of Tourism

How 3rd world can attract more tourists

By Dr. Karl Wolfgang Meack

One of the topics covered by the International Tourism Exchange ITB Berlin 1990, taking place on the Berlin Exhibition Grounds and in the ICC Berlin from March 3 to 8, will be the European Year of Tourism, and the measures being undertaken to create a single European market. In the following report Dr. Karl Menck of the Institute for Economic Research (HWWA), Hamburg, examines the measures that should be undertaken by developing countries in order to retain their competitiveness.

additional and lasting impetus to tourism in the European Community. In addition tourism can be expected to benefit from the measures being taken by the Community in preparation for the creation of the single European market by 1992. No matter now the announcements by the Community may be implemented, third countries are advised to pay close attention to such initiatives. This applies in narticular to those developing strength lags behind that of the Community, and which, in the tourism sector, have a substantial bent up demand in comparison

with the industrialised nations. This year the Community intends to set up its promotional efforts, especially in North America and Japan. The aim is to correct the misconception that 10 days is sufficient in order to cover the whole of Europe, and to familiarise oneself with the many different features of the continent, its culture, landscapes and history. If overseas travellers can be persuaded to stay longer, this will provide more income for hotels, travel businesses and various other branches of industry that are closely associated with tourism in the Community. Moreover, the Community is planning to provide subsidies for ment during the European

THE sim of the European Year Year of Tourism, in order to of Tourism in 1990 is to give attract tourists from all over the attract tourists from all over the world to various European des-Although these measures are predominantly directed at poten-

tial travellers from North America and Japan, mention should also be made of other measures for this current year which, it is hoped, will expand tourism within the Commu nity. The aim is to barmonise holiday periods throughout Europe and to reduce distortions. A uniform EC seal of quality will identify clean beaches ful, it will have an effect on third countries which had previously been popular with travellers from member countries of the EC. Once distortions in the holiday periods have been eliminated, no potential tourist would be compelled to look for destinations outside the Community, unless motivated by quite different preferences. The guarantee of clean beaches is the perfect way of winning back those tourists who were frightened off by polluted resorts in the Community, and who are looking for unspoilt areas, including those in develop-

Developing countries making an effort to attract more tourists may also suffer as a result of res intended to establish a single European market by the end of 1992. Admittedly, the munity seeks to offer reas-

ing countries.

ket will stimulate growth within the community, thereby creating additional purchasing power. As a result this may intensify trade with the developing countries, as well as increasing the amount of money available to almost 360 million people within the community for the purposes of travel, thereby favouring tourism in developing countries as well.

However, this will do little to allay the fears in developing countries that member states of the Community, especially those which are dependent upon tourism, will implement additional programmes to promote this sector of industry as a part of the process leading towards the establishment of the single European market. A new burst of investment will limit the possibilities for expanding tourism in the developing countries, which are unable to generate the same level of funding. Although this particu-Community may not be at the sort of level predicted by critics in developing countries, it is obvious that the single European market will set new bench marks for tourism. With the elimination of border

checks and liberalisation of transport, the relatively short distances within the Community will be reduced even further, and tourists, always eager to save time, will take advantage of this situation. Along with price reductions and improved productivity in manufacturing, the advent of the single European market also promises certain advantages for the consumer. Competition between hotels and tour operators in various member countries of the Community will put pressure on prices, and this is also likely to draw besiness away from third countries, Moreover, hotels and

this competition, thereby improving their facilities and services. Not only can we expect new investments in the hotel sector, but funds will also be provided to clean up beaches, dispose of sewage more hygienically, and to protect against noise and air pollution. One reaction by communities and cities to this increased competition will be a tendency to prevent the spread of

unrestricted building. Those developing countries dependent upon tourism will find that their competitive situation has changed, along with their negotiating power when dealing with travel companies in the Community. This is one consequence of the closer collaboration between tourism companies. which will be unable to survive in the single European market unlegislation intended to cont competition, the European Commission is undertaking other measures in order to protect customers from excessive prices on probetween tour operators and illegal. The commission has reneatedly criticised the system of licences for the sale of air tickets, and the rules governing commis-sion. A standardised travel law

less they are large enough to cope with changing competitive condi-tions. In addition, influenced by tected national markets. For example, in 1987 price agreements travel agencies were declared throughout the EC, more closely meeting the needs of consumers. together with improved protection in cases of bankruptcy and insolvency are also on the agenda. These will threaten the existence of medium sized tourism companies in particular, which do not have the capacity to expand their activities through the EC. To prevent the tourism market from being dominated in the long and who can adjust their range of

term by only a few major compames, many of the more prudent voices are calling for the regulation of competition to be applied to cross-border mergers between companies in this sector, the long term intention being to ensure adequate competition. The developing countries

would be well advised to interpret these changes correctly, and avoid false estimates of the probable negative impact. The improved productivity will be in excess of anything that the developing countries are likely to achieve. Such countries would have great difficulty in financing the same kind of investments as the Community. So far they have achieved little success in establishing and expanding tourism industries that are independent, internationally competitive, and capable of sustained growth. The countries of the Third World are hardly in a position to respond to the growing market strength of offer few alternatives to tourism, and as a rule are dependent on the foreign exchange earnings that it brings. When negotiating with tour operators they will find it virtually impossible to raise costs, since the operators are themselves facing greater com-petition. It is essential that traditional sales strategies in the Community are re-examined as soon as possible. As the Community grows closer together there will be less justification for maintaining expensive agencies and repre-sentatives in individual countries. It is more important than ever to ensure close cooperation with travel agencies and tour operators who are well acquainted with the requirements of potential travellers in the Community, who can respond quickly to changes in customer preferences,

budgets of various groups within the population as a whole. Even if a proportion of the turnover or other costs must be paid, this form of marketing is still more successful than that of the stateowned agencies that many developing countries still operate in numerous countries of the Community. There is no longer any room for such state-run agencie which do not reflect the needs of the customer, and whose governmentally influenced attitude seeks to promote tourism facilities without taking into account the intensive competition for existing customers.

services to meet the available

But it is not just marketing that must be changed as a result of developments in the Community this year and over the next 24 months. It is also essential to implement wide-ranging improvements in the range of services offered by resorts, and available to travellers in Third World countries. All too often one tends to neglect the reforms that could contribute to the reduction of excessive and annoying obstacles: the process of crossing borders should be simplified, although this should not compromise valid security interests, and immigration formalities should also be simplified. Obstacles to foreign trade should be reduced, in order to facilitate collaboration with foreign tour operators and hotel companies. Price stability, legal protection, the avoidance of governmental intervention and excessive taxation are also essential features if suitable economic background conditions are to be created.

Investments should be encouraged, more skilled pesonnel must be trained, and there must be a better understanding of all the various requirements of tourism policy - ITB Berlin.

ARKETPLACE

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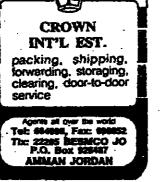
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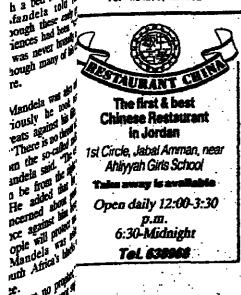


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EC assures GCC, developing states over ties with E. Europe

GRANADA, Spain (R) — The European Community's (EC's) commitment to help Eastern European countries adapt to economic change will not cause it to neglect other trading partners, a senior EC official pledged Monday.

European Commission Vice-President Martin Bangemann, addressing a conference on indust ial cooperation between the 12-nation Community and Arab Gulf countries, sought to reassure Gulf officials and businessmen that plans for a free trade pact would continue apace.

"Possible extension of the European Community and other events in Europe will not reduce or weaken our determination to establish closer political and economic relationships with our partners at global level," he said. Agreements between the Community and new governments in Eastern Europe and fast moves towards German unification have sparked concern among the EC's trading partners in the developing

They fear that the Community might divert its aid to the fledgling regimes in East Europe.

Bangemann said the EC's partners, and the six-nation Guif Cooperation Council (GCC) in particular, had nothing to worry

The Community will do everything in its power to deepen an existing trade agreement with the GCC and quickly conclude a farther reaching accord, he said.

The GCC member states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates — have often complained of trade barriers erected:

by the EC against their infant

GCC countries, striving to diversify their oil-based economies into petrochemicals and alumimium, have also voiced mounting anger at their growing trade deficit with the EC, their main trading partner.

GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bishara told the conference the group's patience was running out. "A trade agreement with the EC is worth having," he said. "Whether it is worth waiting for remains to be seen."

A framework for economic cooperation signed by the two sides in June 1988 was "not a substitute for an institutionalised trade agreement," Bishara

Inflation

in OECD

officials are taking part, continued Tuesday with debates on Officials from the two groups will meet next month in Oman for oil, gas and petrochemicals.

Africa, L. America seen hit by global investment shift

Latin America could be hard hit by a shift in Western investment to Eastern Europe during the 1990s, But East Asia will remain a development bright spot, a senior World Bank official predicted Tuesday.

World Bank Treasurer Donald Roth said Japan and the major Western industrialised countries would step up investment in the former communist economies of Eastern Europe, syphoning funds away from developing countries. While this could have an im-

pact on Asia, he expected the booming Asian economies would go on attracting substantial commercial investment, with Japan dominating capital flows across much of the region.

But he forecast that developing countries in other parts of the world could be seriously affected. "Latin America and Africa will

respect to receiving capital flows." he told a media and economic seminar in Manila called the One-Asia Assembly.

The commercial banks will not return to these markets voluntarily in this century other than for trade and project finance. As far as private sector capital flows are concerned, Africa and Latin America will increasingly be at the margin of

investment plans," Roth stated. He said that Eastern Europe would absorb a much higher proportion of new capital flows and equity investment, with some of the investment attracted from Asia's newly industrialising nations like South Korea and Taiwan.

But at a separate session, Roth emphasised that institutions like the World Bank would go on providing capital to the world's poorest. He said the World Bank would have \$20 billion a year to lend during the 1990s.

Eastern Europe will not subtract at all from the bank's ability to lend to developing countries,

In a speech read for him at the Manila conference, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus said incorporating socialist economies into the international economy was the toughest but most promising challenge of the 1990s.

He said transforming centrallyplanned economies into more market-oriented ones "will have profound consequences for the coming decade, and for the rest of the world as well as the countries themselves." Camedssus was invited to the conference, but was unable to attend.

Both the IMF and World Bank are already helping Poland. Roth said he expected Romania to resume borrowing from the bank, and Czechoslovakia may become a member in the next few

Economist and author John Galbraith said the industrialised countries "must come promptly and generously to the assistan of the countries now in the process of liberalisation... debt service should be suspended and affirmative help in grants and loans must not be confirmed to capital goods," he said.

Help for Eastern Europe should not mean less for other developing countries, he added. Instead, reduced tension should mean reduced military expenditure, which could be used instead to help the world's poorer coun-

UAE minister pushes to end budget deficit

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is trying to speed up agreement on the feder-al budget this year in an attempt to wipe out a persistent annual deficit, UAE officials said.

Finance and Industry Minister Hamdan Ibn Rashid Al Maktoum has sent a letter to federal ministries asking them to trim spending, ministry sources said.
Sheikh Hamdan has said pro-

iected revenues in calendar 1990 are 12.84 billion dirhams (\$3.5 billion), the same as 1989 revenues when the UAE showed a budget deficit of 1.81 billion (\$493 million).

"The need has become more pressing this year to tighten expenditure so we will reach a balance between revenues and spending," the sources quoted him as saying in the letter.

Sheikh Hamdan asked ministries to present their draft spending plans by March 20 so the federal budget could be released

earlier this year, the sources said. The UAE has had a federal budget deficit since 1982 when oil export earnings, its main source of revenue, began to decline due to a sharp drop in international oil prices.

The problem is further compli-

One Sterling

One U.S. dollar

One ounce of gold

blue chip 36,895.52.

cated because, although each of the seven emirates that make up the federation are supposed to contribute half their income to the overall budget, the two richest Dubai and Abu Dhabi pro-

vide almost all the money. For the past six years, protracted negotiations between the emirates have held up budget announcements until almost the

end of each budget year. Because of this, monthly allocations to ministries of one twelfth of the previous year's expenditure have become commonplace and federal spending plans have been held up.

The UAE has mainly relied on the introduction of service fees in such sectors as health, education, business licences, and residence permits, to bring in extra revenue.

The sources said Sheikh Hamdan expected an increase in ministry revenues, mainly from such service fees, but said addi-tional funds would go to pay the government's outstanding debts to contractors and banks.

Meanwhile, the National Bank of Dubai announced record profits for calendar 1989 of 437.95 million dirhams (\$119.33 million) compared to 396.22 million (\$107.96 million) in 1988.

466.9 358.3 110.2 54.4 193.3

109.5 54.1 192.1

U.S. dollars Canadian dollar

Deutschemarks

Dutch guilders

Belgian francs

French francs

Japanese yen Swedish crowns

Norwegian crowns

Danish crowns

U.S. dollars

Italian lire

Swiss francs

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, February 20, 1990

Central Bank official rates

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession

on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

1.7090/100

1.1990/2000

1.6715/22

1.8835/45

1.4822/32

5.6780/830

1240/1241

145.25/35

6.1060/160 6.4475/525

6.4470/520

418.75/419.25

34.92/95

675.0

454.9

1146.2 1153.1 401.4 403.8

Japanese yen (for 100)
Dutch guilder
Swedish crown
Italian lira (for 100)

countries accelerates PARIS (Agencies) — Inflation spurted ahead to a six per cent

average annual rate in 1989 for the 24 industrialised nations belonging to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, the Paris-based group said in a statement Monday.

The figure was ahead of the 4.8 per cent rate for 1988 and 3.9 per cent for 1987, the statement said. The rate of inflation in the United States was 4.8 per cent in 1989, 4.1 per cent in 1988 and 3.7 per cent in 1987.

Turkey posted the highest rate, with 67.6 per cent, but that was down from 75.4 per cent in 1988, the report said. The lowest rates were the Netherlands with 1.1 per cent, Japan with 2.3 per cent, and Austria and West Germany with 2.8 per cent.

Other percentage figures for 1989: Australia, 7.3; Belgium, 3.1; Britain, 7.8; Canada, 5; 🕻 🕻 nmark, 4.8; Finland, 6.6; France. 3.6; Greece, 13.7; Iceland, 20.7; Ireland, 4.0; Italy, 6.6; Luxembourg, 3.4; New Zealand, 5.7; Norway, 4.6; Portugal, 12.6; Spain, 6.8; Sweden, 6.4 and Switzerland, 3.2.

In another report, the OECD has said that Norway's mainland economy appears to be recovering from a slump but its dependence on North Sea oil has risen despite efforts to diversify since 1986.

The slump in domestic demand and mainland activity in late 1988 and early 1989 was more pronounced than thought a year ago," the OECD said in a survey.
"However, a recovery, boosted by public spending, appears to have got under way," it added.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

officials have already clearly ex-

pressed their displeasure at the

negotiating mandate adopted

last December by the EC, which

includes a lengthy transition

The main bone of contention is

the quotas and tariffs with which

the EC, fearing a flood of cut-

price imports in an already con-

gested market, protects its own

Under the free trade proposals,

the Community would maintain

duties on a list of about 46 types

of petrochemicals which the Gulf

countries are particularly keen to

The three-day conference, in

which some 300 businessmen and

petrochemical industry.

period.

N. Yemen gives bonuses to expatriates

SANAA (R) - North Yemen has decided to offer its one million expatriate workers preferential exchange and interest rates in a bid to increase foreign currency remittances, officials and bankers have said. The exchange rate for Yemenis working abroad will be 12 riyals to the dollar, nearly 23 per cent higher than the central bank's official rate, a banker told Reuters. Expatriates will also be able to open bank accounts in foreign currencies at higher interest rates than those offered to rivals depositors at a bank to be set up for that purpose, the banker added. He did not specify the new rates. "These measures are aimed at encouraging Yemeni expatriates to play a role in the development process in the country," the senior official told Reuters. Remittances by Yemenis working in Saudi Arabia, Britain and the United States are the main source of the country's foreign currency. They have been cut by half since the 1986 oil market collapse to around \$255 million a year, officials said.

Chrysler, Renault choose "JJ" site

PARIS (R) - U.S. and French automakers Chrysler and Renault have said they had chosen a Spanish site for a factory to produce a four-wheel-drive recreational vehicle codenamed "II" to challenge Japanese rivals. The site, in a redundant plant occupied by Renault's Spanish subsidiary in Valladolid, about 160 kilometres north of Madrid, will produce the vehicles for the European market from 1992 and may also export to the United States, they said. A plant in the United States, probably on a site Chrysler already owns, will be chosen soon for North American output. The plant in the United States, probably on a site Chrysler already owns, will be chosen soon for North American output. The announcement marked another step for the world's car manufacturers as they manoeuvre for position ahead of the creation of a unified Éuropean market after 1992, analysts say. Formation of the 2.5 billion franc (\$440 million) Arcad S.A. joint-venture company to produce the "JJ" was announced about a year ago, and constitutes part of Chrysler's oft-stated aim to expand its presence in Europe.

Bulgaria considers privatisation

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's reformist leaders have given private farmers more freedom and are considering privatising some shops and restaurants to revitalise the country's stagnant economy. The official BTA news agency said a government decree gave private farmers the right to decide their own production methods and export their produce. It set no limits on the size of the land they can farm. The government also agreed to set up a bank for agrarian credit offering loans to finance the building of small farms and food processing enterprises, BTA said, Bulgaria's new communist leaders are grappling with a \$10 billion foreign debt and widespread fodd shortages. Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov, a Soviet-educated economist and reformist, has said he wants to boost exports and create a foreign exchange market with a convertible currency. BTA said the ministry of trade and services was proposing a privatisation scheme for retailing and services businesses to the council of ministers.

Jordan

Times

Tel: 667171

MY GRAMPA SAYS THAT WHEN

Modernising E. Germany may cost

\$600 billion

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — The cost of modernising East Germany's ailing economy and its crumbling infrastructure after unification could exceed one trillion Deutschemarks (\$600 billion), a leading West German

economist said Tuesday. "Estimates of more than one trillion marks... for modernising the economy, housing, infrastructure and the environment are not too high," Hans Juergen Schmahl, vice president of Hamburg's HWWA economic research institute, said

West Germany would manage to finance these huge costs, with private industry bearing the brunt, Schmahl wrote in Hamburger Abendblatt newspaper.

He said the West German taxpayer's biggest bill could come from having to cushion East German workers from unemployment when the country shifts to a capitalist economy.

The cost to the Bonn government in social security payments has been put at 50 billion marks (\$30 billion) a year but Schmahl said it was still too early to make It was also premature to decide

whether West Germany should raise taxes to finance the modemisation of East Germany, he said. But Bonn had to give up its plans to start cutting corporate taxes from next year. Meanwhile, governing and

opposition groups in East Germany urged the government to scrap food subsidies worth 30 billion marks (\$18 billion) before next month's free elections.

The move seemed likely to trigger a sport of panic-buying by East Germans before prices soar.

The round table, which brings together established government parties and opposition groups, agreed to press the cabinet to approve the move and pay each citizen 150 marks (\$90) a month to compensate.

The long-overdue dismantling of subsidies is one of the first stages of effective economic reform," said a statement by the round table read out on television before it began a session of talks.

Rafsanjani proposes '90-'91 budget with \$22 billion deficit

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Tuesday proposed an \$80 billion budget with a deficit of \$22 billion for the next Iranian year beginning March 21.

Tehran radio quoted Rafsanjani as telling parliament the budget included income from natural gas exports for the first time in many years and projected an increase of 21 per cent in oil and gas revenue and 41 per cent in tax receipts.

It envisaged that output from heavy industry would rise 50 per cent and that there would be substantial investment in electricity, and transport, he said.

Effective forces have realised that the country needs more work to resolve problems stemming from the war and the revolutionary situation and those handed down from the previous era," Rafsanjani said when proposing the budget bill to parliament.

Troubled economy

Western and Iranian economists in the Gulf say that Iran's economy is in trouble and that hopes of recovery raised 18 Iraq have been badly dented.

The president described the budget as the first step in implementing a five-year economic plan adopted last month which foresees an average annual growth rate of eight per cent.

The budget aims for a jump in capital expenditures - by 60 per cent to 1,631.3 billion rivals (\$23.3 billion). But in many other aspects,

including its 15.6 per cent rise in current expenditure, the budget continues the previous years' policy of deficit spending, designed to finance the war against Iraq and feed a rapidly growing population on limited income.

Rafsanjani said nearly onetenth of the capital expenditure would be made in the agricultural sector but the government would continue importing more than 10 million tonnes of basic goods much of it food sold at subsidised

The radio did not give a figure for military spending.

Oil production

Rafsanjani said Iran would boost its total crude oil production capacity to 3.57 million barrels a day and expect to earn 1,089.6 billion rivals (\$15.6 billion) from oil and gas next year. Of that total, 20 million rivals (\$286 million) would come from natural gas exports and 30.4 billion riyals (\$434 million) fro export of refined products.

iran has agreed to resume exports of natural gas to the Soviet Union on April 1 after a 10-year

Rafsanjani said tax revenue would reach 1,623.7 billion rivals (\$23.2 billion) with business tax receipts incréasing at a higher rate than income tax to improve

the lop-sided tax structure. The other third of the total revenue of 4,009.7 billion rivals (\$57.3 billion) would be provided by "other incomes" which inchide the sale of foreign exchange to businessmen at a competitive rate currently more than 11 times official parity of about 70 riyal

Current expenditures account for 3,964.5 billion riyals (\$56.6 billion) more than 70 per cent of total spending of 5,595.8 (\$79.9 billion). -

That leaves a budget deficit of ,586.1 billion riyals (\$22.6 billion), nearly 18 per cent more than the current year's planned shortfall.

Borrowing

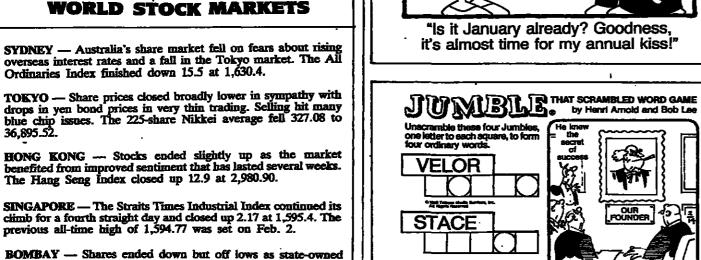
Preliminary figures in the five year plan set a limit of 1,439 billion riyals (\$20.6 billion) on government borrowing from the central bank to cover the deficit next year. The rest was to be met by returns from previous years'

The budget included credits for building 1,800 kilometres of road and two new oil refineries, the president said,

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris HARRIS 1-24 JANUARY "Is it January already? Goodness,

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it was supposed to be just a date until he started to do this---"INTIMI-DATE"



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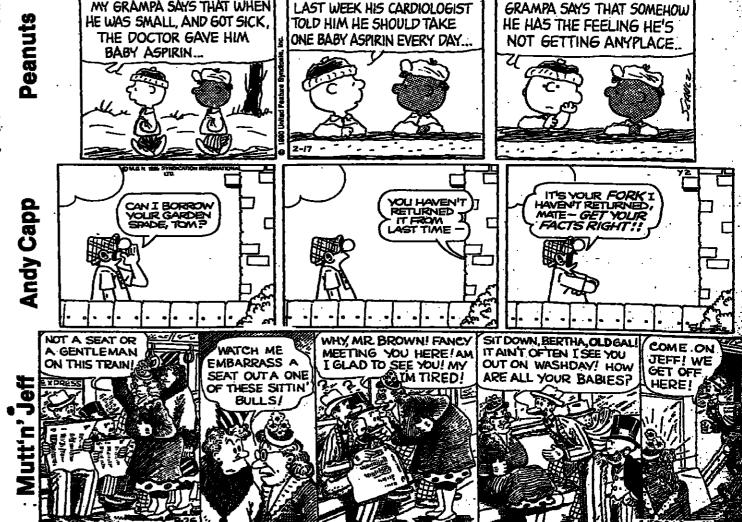
investment trusts bought heavily after the market dropped sharply in early trading. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell 5.06 points to 674.47. FRANKFURT — West German shares plunged 2.5 per cent in moderate trading as the market succumbed to mounting worries about continued weakness on the German bond market. The Dax

index fell 45.38 points to end at 1,823.81.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower as the Zurich Bourse took its lead from lower prices in Frankfurt, dealers said. Turnover was low, with some selling by foreign investors. The All-Share SPI Index lost 10.9 points to close at 1,117.

TO ACHIEVE A ONE MUST PUT THESE TOGETHER IN COMBINATION. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.





LAST WEEK HIS CARDIOLOGIST

Sports

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AC Milan denies European super league to start in 1991

ROME (R) — A spokesman for "although there has been a lot of Italian tycoon Silvio Berlascoci speculation about it." Tuesday demed a report that a 16-team European super league, the brainchild of the AC Milan club president, was planned to start next year.

The newspaper Scotland Sunday said a socret agreement had been reached for the competition and a provisional fixture list for the 1991-92 season circulated among the chibs involved.

"It's an old idea of Berluscom's. It's still just an idea at this stage and it definitely won't hap-pen next year," Milan club spokesman Guido Sussini said in a telephone interview.

"The detailed rules haven't even been discussed yet - no list of squads has been drawn up, no fixture list for 1991-92 and no

secret agreement."

A UEFA spokesman said Saturday that European soccer's ruling body knew nothing officially about a super league. UEFA.

He said any approach about running a super league would

Asked whether the competition would replace the UEFA. Cup as reported in the newspapet, Sussisi said: "Nothing's defi-nite. The competition could per-

advocate of the formation of a European super league for many years and has set up and run several prestigious international pre-season tournaments in recent

The Italian multi-millionsire

GOREN BRIDGE

WEEKLY BRIDGE OUTZ

Q.1-As South, vuintrable, you #AG CKQI3 0373 4392 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West Pass Pass ? What action do you take?

Q.2-As South, vulnerable, you ±97652 ♥J 063 +96542 Partner opens the bidding in first seat with one club. What action do you take?

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have to come from national soccer associations and not the clubs. He said no approaches had been

fectly well take place in addition to the UEFA Cup." Berlusconi has been a strong

said last May he hoped to create the fabric for the formation of a European league in readiness for when it may be ratified by

you hold: 7043 07 **⊕E763**

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Look for answers on Monday.

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THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Congles



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Cinema

CONCORD Younis Shalabi, Sa'id Saleh, and Wahld Self in

The Good, the Monster, and the **Fierce** (Arabic)

3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.



Tel: 677420

Dutch look to Van Basten to lift morale against Italy

van Basten can extend his recent deadly form and inspire them to victory over Italy in Rotterdam Wednesday in their last home match before the World Cup

The European footballer of the year and his Dutch team mate Frank Rijkaard have sparkled in AC Milan's charge to the top of the Italian league, where Van Basten is top scorer with 16 goals. The pair missed the warm-up with Brazil in December when the European champions were

forced to field a second string team and slumped to their first defeat in 18 months. "It's good that we've got all the players together. After the defeat by Brazil I'm demanding a good performance," said assistant coach Nol de Ruiter, in charge

> from a hernia operation. De Ruiter denied Dutch press reports AC Milan had asked that their players play only half a

"I've heard nothing from AC. Any changes we make will depend on how things are going

on the night," he said.
Inspirational skipper Ruud Gullit, AC Milan's third Dutchman, is still missing after a series of knee operations with the Netherlands no longer counting on him being fit for this summer's World Cup finals in Italy.

"We've got to prepare the team so that they can play without Gullit and if he makes it so much the better," said Rinus Michels, who led the side to their 1988 European triumph and is 30-year-old defender said.

AMSTERDAM (R) — The again part of the management Netherlands are hoping Marco team.

The impressive John Bosman of KV Mechelen continues to deputise for Gullit alongside Van Basten in attack.

PSV Eindhoven's Gerald Vanenburg returns after a three-month injury lay-off to add his guile to a midfield in which Ajax's 20-year-old Richard Witschge seems certain to make his debut.

Italian manager Azeglio Vicini must do without four of his most talented players in Rotterdam. Libero Franco Baresi and Winger Roberto Donadoni, who play alongside Rijkaard and Van Basten at AC Milan, are sidelined. Baresi has flue while Donadoni is recovering from a knee injury.

Adding to Vicini's woes, Internazionale Milan defender Riccardo Ferri has a shoulder while This Libregts recovers injury and Sampdoria striker Gianluca Vialli is out with a broken foot.

Napoli's Andrea Carnevale and Internazionale's Aldo Serena are battling for a place alongside Giuseppe Giannini of Roma as the Italians try to liven up a toothless attack which has found the net just once in the last four

Vicini has also called up AC Milan midfielder Carlo Ancelotti after a two-year absence and Sampdoria's Pietro Vierchowod, who last played for Italy in the 1986 World Cup.

"I thought it was a joke at first when Vicini called me... but God moves in mysterious ways,"

'Egypt too inconsistent for World Cup success'

individual stars.

semifinal rounds.

Ahmad Al Kass.

Sunday.

That's what happened in last

week's warmup games. Wednesday's draw with De-

nmark, while not a showcase of

world-class soccer, was respect-

able with flashes of brilliance,

especially from midfielder

But Robson said Al Kass and

others surprised him with the

deterioration in the quality of

their play against South Korea on

He noted that the lineup was

the same as that against Denmark except for the goalie. Yet a lost

early scoring opportunity gave the team such a psychological jolt

that it could not recover, he said,

forcing mental errors on itself

unlike anything in the Denmark

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - Consistency may be the hobgoblin of little minds, but it's a hallmark of a winning soccer team. And England manager Bobby Robson finds it lacking in Egypt's 1990 World Cup unity.

Robson, whose England team is in Egypt's group in the championships next summer in Italy, spoke his mind after watching the Egyptians play two 0-0 draws in warmup matches.

"I admired some Egyptian players in the first game against Denmark, but those same players did not display the same standard in the game against Korea," Rob-son told newsmen. This shows that the standard

fluctuates. Captain Al Gohary must seek a solution to this problem before the World Cup tournamen"...

Egypt, playing in its first World Cup championships since 1934, is considered the weakest team of its group, which includes Ireland and Holland in addition to Robson's England.

Mahmoud Al Gohary, Egypt's manager since September 1988, is noted for scientific soccer and has game.

NEW YORK (AP) - Jose

Sulaiman, the embattled president of the World Boxing Council, said Monday he has no

intention of resigning, as

published reports have said he

would do at a meeting of the

organisation's executive

committee Wednesday at Mexico

fight," Sulaiman told the

"I'm a fighter, I was born to

Sulaiman denies resignation Associated Press by telephone from his home at Mexico City shortly after he returned from the hospital where he had been treated for what he called "a very serious" pancreas problem.

> Sulaiman has been under fire since he suspended the result of James "Buster" Douglas 10th-round knockout of Mike Tyson for the heavyweight title Sunday at Tokyo.



Saqr Al Urdun crew (from left to right): Captain Eric Ledger, co-pilot Rakan Nasser, photographer Mazen Fanous.

Sagr Al Urdun keeps the lead

By Serene Halasa Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN --- Sagr Al Urdun (the Falcon of Jordan), a Royal Jordanian aircraft taking part in the Malaysian interna-tional air race 1990, came in second place in the fourth phase of the race, flying from Jobore to New Delhi, India. However, Jordan still maintains the lead in the total time difference by an advantage of three hours and forty five minutes.

Jordan had won the first three phases of the race, and was awarded in the third phase two awards, the first for winning the first place and the second for crossing the distance in a time shorter than the specified time by 11 points.

During the flight from Johore to New Delhi, the aircraft was faced with bad weather and strong winds, forcing the crew to take an alternative

route over Calcutta. Upon arrival to India, the crew was met at New Delhi airport by a number of Indian officials, the Jordanian ambassador to India, the regional director of the Royal Jordanian, members of the Royal Jordanian office in India, and a crowd of reporters and spectators.

Next Thursday, the fifth phase of the race will start by flying from New Delhi to Dubai. The trip is expected to last eight hours. The sixth phase will include flying from Dubai to Amman, where the planes will land in Amman International Airport Saturday.

The Royal Jordanian crew includes, captain Eric Ledger, co-pilot Rakan Nasser, and photographer Mazen Fanous. Taking part in the race are France, Malaysia, Belgium. the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and Switzer-

Samaranch urges Olympic movement to respond to changes in S. Africa KUWAIT (AP) — The president declared at the opening session of the International Olympic a special IOC anti-apartheid and Asian Olympic council,

Committee (IOC) Juan Antonio Samaranch, Tuesday urged the Olympic movement to respond to changes in South Africa by taking action that is approved by the South African national Olympic

"It is time not only for words but also for deeds," Samaranch

meeting here.

whether close or at a distance

Much excitement will exist be

ber 21) Get all the information available about a new business

venture. Listen to really under-

stand the new standpoints of your

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Accept a special

invitation extended to you by an understanding woman. Put more art, colour, beauty and harmony

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) Be dynamic in busi-

ness, but don't act without considerable investigation. Go with attachment to handle wisely any

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febru-

ary 19) Be open to receive friends

of different viewpoints from yours. Invite only the friends who you like

PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) Join with your most exciting friends for a pleasant enjoyable time. Do something very special that you know your attachment will enjoy.

born today he or she will travel far beyond their place of birth, will study several foreign languages

and adopt thoughts and philo-sophies very different than the family. This child will need to learn

not to be so demanding and fussy and to give others the option s they are seeking.

compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

"The stars impel, they do not

personally into your home.

into your home.

financial matters.

"My message - is, we have to move forward, but we have to move with the agreement of our colleagues," he said.

Samaranch gave no details about the type of action he seeks, but Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who spoke on behalf of

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1990 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A fine day for being very direct in arranging any festive activity and tween you and your attachment. distance who are able to give you a boost when it counts the most.

accept from friends. A person from a distance will bring pleasure to TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consult with an expert friend in an outertainment or cultural activity.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You need to discriminate carefully

on which social invitations you now

Accept invitations with mate to outside functions. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Let a dynamic friend from a distance now become part of your social activities. Coordinate your plans today with the one you love the

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Friends and acquaintances can be a blessing and a great help to you right now. Do something special to show devotion to your

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take interesting friends to delightful place of entertainment. Lots of interesting conditions can take place between you and your ment now. VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) Discussions with a successful friend can aid your present finan-cial situation. Be alert to gaining harmony at home through new methods.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get together with as many friends and companions now, stringent action against He indicated that no concession should be made to the

South African regime before it completely dismantles apartheid. Nothing is acceptable other than total eradication of apartheid," Sheikh Fahd said. The IOC apartheid and

which he chairs, called for more

Olympic commission is meeting in Kuwait to discuss sports relations with South Africa as that country makes moves away from a policy of apartheid, or racial separation, that has elicited sanctions.

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STEALING HOME

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BILOXI BLUES



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Ireland tells U.K. not to break ranks over Pretoria sanctions

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Ireland told Britain Tuesday not to break ranks with its European Community partners by lifting sanctions against South Africa.

In an interview with Irish radio before the start of a meeting of the 12 EC foreign ministers in Dublin, Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins said:

"It would have very serious implications if they do that. The entire credibility of European political cooperation would be on

Collins, chairing the talks because Ireland currently holds the EC presidency, confirmed that Britain was alone in pressing for the Community's ban on new investments to be lifted now that South Africa had freed black nationalist leader Nelson Man-

Asked whether suggestions that Britain might act alone were putting him under pressure, he

"I'm not under any pressure whatsoever in any way, nor indeed are any of my other 10 colleagues who I think share the same views as I do."

"Perhaps the British are under certain pressure, self-imposed pressure with regard to positions which I understand from the newspapers they are taking up, and that is what they would break away from the consensus which is already there.

Apart from the investment ban, EC sanctions also bar exports of arms and imports of South African gold coins, iron

Britain, which agreed only grudgingly to international sanctions to press South Africa to end apartheid, says President F.W. De Klerk should be rewarded and encouraged for releasing Mande-la, legalising the African National Congress, and opening the way for negotiations with the black

Other governments say they want all political prisoners freed. an end to the state of emergency and concrete steps towards the

abolition of apartheid before any sanctions are removed.

Diplomats said ministers could agree to send a "troika" of EC foreign ministers to South Africa to assess the situation. This would in itself be an important political

The troika would comprise Ireland, France and Italy — the current, past and future holders of the EC presidency. Collins said that any mission should meet all parties in South Africa, including de Klerk.

EC ministers start talks

European Community foreign ministers met here Tuesday, with Britain pressing the wealthy trading bloc to drop the ban on new investment in South Africa and hinting it may lift the embargo

unilaterally.

Irish officials said British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd France. appeared to be isolated in his In an demand for an immediate easing of sanctions.

The Community's commissioner for external relations, Frans Andriessen, added in an Irish radio interview that the one-day

meeting "will not be easy. But there might be much of understanding than people believe there to be."

The foreign ministers were also expected to focus on rapid moves toward German unification. Ireland announced last week it will summon a special European Community summit in April because of the pace of develop-

British Prime Minister Mar-garet Thatcher, the West's most outspoken opponent of sactions against South Africa, argues that the Community's relatively mild embargoes should be lifted gradually to reward the white-led government's reforms.

Apart from Britain, the Com-munity includes three of South Africa's other major trading part-ners — West Germany, Italy and

In angry exchanges with opposition legislators in the British parliament last week, Hurd said that if there is no agreement in Dublin, "the government must reserve its right to act on its own if necessary.

IRA seeks talks with Britain over N. Ireland

leaders have offered to sit down for talks with Britain and said a easefire in Northern Ireland's 20-year-old conflict would be the st item on the agenda.

The surprise olive branch was ffered to Britain's Northern Ireand Minister Peter Brooke by a Source close to the Irish Republi-tan Army's seven-man "army

Pledging talks with no pre-conditions, he told a Dublin news agency: "The dialogue would be direct between the British gov-

ernment and the IRA. He promised that a ceasefire would top the agenda. "A cease-

Comoros

elections

for March

Islands have set a fresh presiden-

tial election for March 4 after

balloting in the country's first-

ever poll collapsed in chaos

State-run radio Comoros

announced the new date follow-

ing an emergency cabinet meet-

ing Monday.

If none of the eight candidates

gets more than 50 per cent of the

vote, a run-off ballot between the

two leading contenders will take

Seven opposition candidates

accused interim President Said

Mohammad Djohar, who is con-

testing the polls, of trying to rig

Sunday's election and demanded

He has denied the charges.

blaming election officials and the

opposition for the collapse of the

The seven were expected to

respond to the announcement on

the fresh poll after a meeting in

the capital Moroni Tuesday. But one, Said Ali Kemal, said

he would like the election to be

organised by France, which ruled

the Indian ocean archipelago un-til its independence in 1975. No

elections have been beld since.

France sent troops to the Com-

oros after the assassination of

President Mohammad Abdallah

last November and the seizure of

power by European mercenaries

commanding his presidential

place March 11.

his resignation.

announces

DUBLIN (R) -- IRA guerrilla fire could be implemented through the chain of command within hours. Neither is the IRA demanding that talks are depen-dent on British troops being re-

called to their barracks." His Monday night comments were the second republican peace feeler put out within 24 hours and indicated that there may be a major internal debate in the movement about the IRA cam-

Martin McGuinness, vice-president of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, asked in a weekend speech what imaginative steps Brooke might take if guerrilla attacks halted in the province

Tuesday in support of a campaign

for multiparty democracy in

Members of the Nepal Bar

Association, 100 of whom de-

monstrated outside the main gov-

ernment offices, said they bad

paralysed the country's judicial

organise, human rights and an

impartial and independent judici-

ary are some of the factors where

we do share an identical point of

view with the campaigners," for-

mer association head Nutan Tha-

There were no fresh reports of

trouble after two days of violence

in Nepal during the launch of the

day after reaffirming Washing-

ton's determination to comply with its aid pledges to the Philip-

A joint communique on

Cheney's talks with Philippines

Defence Chief Fidel Ramos said

they "reaffirmed the continuing

need for a security relationship

between the two countries" amid

demands by many Manila law-

makers for the removal of U.S.

military bases from the country.

off from the U.S. Clark Air Base, masked demonstrators screaming

Soon after Cheney's plane took

paliya said.

been killed since 1969.

That prompted a quick response from Britain's Northern Ireland office. "If the IRA and Sinn Fein are coming to realise that violence has profited no one in Northern Ireland, that could be an encouraging sign," it said.

"But the government's position remains the same — as long as Sinn Fein support and endorse terrorism they cannot expect to be treated in the same way as any other political party. The choice facing them is clear."

it would be difficult to envisage a killen.

Monday in support of it. Residents of the Kathmandu

main focus of Monday's battles

between demonstrators and riot

police, said it still was very tense

They said many people in the Communist stronghold 20

kilometres from the Nepali capit-

strations to protest against Mon-

feared further trouble, with

The residents said at least five

people were killed by police who

opened fire on stone-throwing

ports put the toil at more than 10.

The government confirmed only

Some opposition party officials

Dozens of people were injured

Monday when not troops battled

leftist demonstrators in front of

the U.S. embassy in Manila and

outside Clark. The protesters also

hanged and burned Cheney's

"My general impression is that

the reception has been pretty good in the Philippines," Cheney told reporters while touring Clark

Asked about being burned in effigy, Cheney said: "I didn't realise it until I turned on the

before flying to Japan

three deaths in Bhaktapur.

crowds and that unconfirmed re-

Nepalese back democracy

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's movement for the restoration of

1,800 lawyers went on strike democracy and a general strike

which at least six people have valley town of Bhaktapur, the

"The rule of law, the right to calls circulating for more demon-

Cheney leaves for Japan

amid Philippine protests

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines "bases out" charged a gate at the (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney flew to Japan Tues
"bases out" charged a gate at the camp but were driven back by American and Philippine guards.

day's deaths.

where almost 3,000 people have military defeat of the IRA, fighting one of the world's longestrunning guerrilla conflicts for two decades now.

Sinn Fein leaders have express ed concern about the drop in the revolutionary party's electoral support - down to nine per cent in Northern Ireland and one per cent in the Irish republic.

Even its most ardent supporters have harshly criticised the IRA for killing civilians in a string of bungled bomb attacks stretching back to November, cing them is clear." 1987, when 11 people were killed Brooke is the first British by an IRA bomb blast at a war minister to concede publicly that memorial ceremony in Ennis-

claimed to have seen army patrols

during the night there. There was

no confirmation of that from the

government, which has said it

wants to keep the army out of the

Political parties banned for 30

years launched the movement

Sunday with demonstrations in

most of the impoverished coun-

vowed to crush the movement,

one fewer than reported by some

It issued an appeal to residents

of the Kathmandu valley, the

country's richest and most fertile

area, to report unfamiliar faces to

the police after a government

minister alleged extremists

fomented the Bhaktapur vio-

Relations between the military

allies have increasingly soured in recent weeks after the U.S. Con-

gress shaved \$96 million from a 1990 aid commitment totalling

President Corazon Aquino re-

fused to meet Cheney and many

Manila lawmakers demanded the

scrapping of exhoratory talks

planned for April on the future of

Naval Base and four smaller faci-

lities is to expire in 1991 and a

strong bloc in the Philippine sen-

ate, which must approve any new

bases accord, has called for their

The U.S. lease on Clark, Subic

\$481 million for the bases.

the U.S. bases.

put Sunday's death toll at three,

The government, which has

try's towns.

local officials.

proposals.

Carlsson," Bildt said.

But the Communists joined the center-right opposition to defeat age, arguing that it would hurt

Under the constitution, Peterson may assign the task of building a government four times, after which elections must be

have governed Sweden for all but six years since 1932, suffered another blow Friday when Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt resigned from the caretaker

parliament from imposing the tight fiscal policies he contended were needed to stop a wage-cost slide threatening Swedish ex-ports. He said he lacked backing from his own party on some of his

The speaker of parliament turned to carlsson after the opposition leader, Carl Bildt of the moderate party, said he had failed to assemble a center-right

"The speaker has asked me to explore possibilities of forming a new government. I will now start that work, and I have been given until Wednesday evening," Carlsson said after he was summoned to the office of speaker Thage G.

wage and price freeze intended to combat inflation.

Carlsson said his hopes of reconstituting a cabinet hinged on building support for a new economic programme, but the refused to say where he would seek backing and how he would modify his

Bildt disclosed that Peterson had given him a chance Saturday to try to assemble a non-Socialist coalition, but that he could not muster a majority or a working

the 21-seat Communist party. the government's economic pack-

Feldt was the architect of Sweden's economic recovery starting in 1982, and in recent years won respect from businessmen for gradually reducing the regulation of financial markets

and banking.
Feldt said he was blocked by

Bildt's moderates and the

Carlsson asked to form new government

STOCKHOLM, (AP) - Ingvar Carlsson, prime minister of Sweden's caretaker government, was asked Monday to form a new government to replace his cabinet, which resigned last

Carlsson's minority Social Democratic government resigned Thursday after parliament defeated proposals for a two-year

"The baton now goes to Ingvar The social democrats, who con-

trol 156 seats in the 349-member Riksdag, have ruled as a minority government with the support of

low-income earners.

The Social Democrats, who

Liberal party have called for an early election to resolve the political crisis that ensued from Carl-

Kaifu prepares new cabinet

TOKYO (AP) - Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, bolstered by what tion fell far short of ousting the he called a vote of confidence in Liberal Democrats from control parliamentary elections, met with other governing party leaders majority in the upper house, Tuesday to discuss a new lineup for the cabinet.

Members of the liberal democratic party's powerful executive and general councils tendered their resignations at meetings Tuesday morning, clearing the way for Kaifu and party power-brokers to begin negotiations for the top cabinet and party posts.

The party leaders also discussed strategies for battling the opposition over taxes and the budget when parliament convenes later this month.

Before Sunday's election for the lower house of parliament, Kaifu's position had appeared shaky. He has a weak personal power base within the LDP and there were doubts the LDP would do well at the polls following an influence-buying scandal and an unpopular 3 per cent sales tax.
Before the elections, Kaifu said

he would resign after six months in office if the party failed to retain at least 257 of the 512 lower house seats.

But Sunday's election brought 275 seats back to the Liberal Democrats and 14 conservative independents are likely to join them later. The ruling party will form a government not far behind the 295 seats they held in the outgoing house. The top opposition Socialists won 136 seats, up

of the lower house, it holds a which must give its assent to most bills passed by the lower house. The lower house can name the prime minister, pass the budget and approve treaties without up-

per house assent. Kaifu said the election result "absolved" the party of its taint of scandal, and promptly de-clared that he would serve out his two-year term as party president.

"We started when the party was said to be in the greatest crisis since it was formed," Kaifu told reporters. "The result of the election is a vote of confidence of the people under the constitution, and our government has

Foreign Minister spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters Tuesday that U.S. President George Bush has congratulated Kaifu in a letter on the election results.

Analysts say Kaifu's staying power will face several tough tests — including how he deals with Japan's chronic trade surplus with the United States - in the coming months. It also is possible he might misstep and become vulnerable again.

If he does, a more powerful figure within the Liberal Democratic Party, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, is widely thought to be preparing to try to

Peruvians poised for elections stage protests

LIMA, (R) - Banks clerks, pris- be made to understand that we on employees and construction workers walked off their jobs Monday as strikes spread across Peru seven weeks before presidential elections.

Most banks were closed due to a one-day strike by Peru's 30,000 bank workers to demand a doubling in their wages, which union leaders said would only begin to compensate for inflation running at about 30 per cent a month.

Civilian staff at the nation's

prisons, textile factory workers, construction workers and employees of the state Merchant Marine Company CPV all walked off the job to demand immediate

wage increase. Bodies have piled up at the Lima morgue due to a week-old morgue workers' strike that has caused backlogs in autopsies and

embalmings. Inflation has eroded real wages to about half of what they were in 1985 when Social Democratic President Alan Garcia took

office, economists say.

cannot go on this way," said Leonardo Ramirez, vice-president of the powerful Mineworkers' Federation, which called a three-day nationwide strike for next month.

Peru's largest union grouping, the Communist-led General Peruvian Labour Confederation (CGTP), was considering calling a general strike before presidential elections April 8, CGTP spokesmen said.

The strike would be aimed at warning the front-runner, centreright candidate Mario Vargas Llosa, "that workers will not their struggle no matter who leads the next government," said a CGTP spokesman.

Vargas Llosa, who is also Peru's most famous novelist, has shown about 55 per cent support in recent opinion polls.

Garcia, barred by the constitution from seeking reelection, is grappling with Peru's worst economic crisis of this century and two leftist guerrilla movements "Workers are suffering and whose insurgencies have claimed starving. The government must about 17,000 lives since 1980.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Havel visits Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) - Vaclav Havel, the dissident playwright who went from prison to the presidency of Czechoslovakia inside of eight months, met with President George Bush Tuesday, the first of Eastern Europe's new pro-democracy leaders to visit the White House. Havel arrived Monday evening after stops in Iceland and Canada on a western trip that comes conspicuously a week before his first trip to Moscow. The Czech parliament elected Havel president Dec. 29, a few weeks after a peaceful revolution led to the ouster of Communist Party chief Milos Jakes and his hard-line government. Havel has said he is coming West not to look for charity but investment in a country that already maintains a standard of living well above many others in the East

Scotland Yard Investigates Ouko killing

NAIROBI (AP) - Two British detectives and a pathologist are joining a probe into the death of Foreign Minister Robert Onko, whose partially burned body was found with a bullet through the head and lying next to his own gun. The British team is composed of superintendent John Troon and inspector Graham Dennis of Scotland Yard and Dr. Ian West, the government said Monday night. The move was seen at least in part as a government attempt to allay fears of a cover-up. University students in Nairobi have demonstrated for three days demanding an impartial investiga-tion. Ouko's partially burned body was found by police Friday in the bush six kilometres from his family home in Koru, near Lake Victoria in Western Kenya.

Boat people protest repatriation policy

HONG KONG (AP) - Four Vietnamese men slashed their abdomens Tuesday to protest the policy that threatens to return them to their homeland, and a detention camp fight injured three others later in the day, officials said. The four men, aged 25 to 40, were hurried to a hospital after injuring themselves with homemade weapons at whitehead detention centre, said government spokeswoman Winnie To. Their wounds were not serious and they left the hospital after refusing treatment, she said. Four other boat people facing repatriation injured themselves in a similar fashion earlier this year at the detention centre. They all survived, but another Vietnamese man hanged himself Friday after being denied refugee status.

Taiwanese clash with police

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Rock-burling protesters demanding greater democracy fought a phalanx of cinb-wielding riot police Tuesday in a roving batle around the legislature building, and at least nine people were reported injured. The clash broke out after 1,000 demonstrators, mostly from the opposition democratic progresive party, harassed aging lawmakers of the rolling. Nationalist Party as they tried to enter the building to elect a new parliamentary speaker

her funeral

NICOSIA (R) — An Omani woman being prepared for burial sat up and shouted "I'm still" alive" after her son splashed her with water as part of traditional Muslim rites, the Omani news agency said. "The woman appears to have been in a long coma and her family thought she was dead," said the agency, received in Cyprus. It did not name her but said she lived in Liwa province northwest of Muscat.

Healing through prayer fails

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — A Christian scientist couple who tried to heal their ailing 15-month-old child through prayers were acquitted on charges of involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment. Los Angeles county super-ior court judge Robert Thomas ruled there was insufficient evidence to convict Eliot and Lise Glaser on the charges filed in the death of their son, Seth. The toddler died March 28, 1984 of meningitis following a two-day illness. Under state law, parents are required to provide for the basic needs of their children, including food, clothing and medical care. A 1976 law sponsored by the Christian Science Church, however, exempts parents who treat children through prayer. The court's decision turned on evidence that the child showed brief periods of recovery during predominant periods of high fever, vomiting and discoloration, said the prosecutor, deputy dis-trict attorney David Wells. The judge ruled indications of recovery raised a reasonable doubt as to whether the religious healing was a wanton and grossly negli-gent act, Wells said.

Pompeii statue dug up

POMPEII, Italy (AP) Archaeologists have unearthed a marble statue buried in the eruption of mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D., newspapers reported. The small statue, which depicts a baby boy riding a dolphin, was found Saturday afternoon in the house of the Casti Amanti, near the centre of the abandoned city, Il Mattino of Naples and other papers reported. Archaeologists said the statue was apparently to be used to decorate a fountain in the house, but that Vesuvius erupted before workers had a chance to set it in place. Experts said traces of paint that coloured the hair blond and evebrows black made the find even more valuable. Experts believe the house of Casti Amanti was owned by a baker, who lived on one side and kept a shop on the other. The last statue to be found in Pompeii was a bronze dug up in 1977.

Cannibals — group of the year

LONDON (AP) — The pop band Fine Young Cannibals was named best British group of the year in London last Sunday night but missed the ceremony because they are in Los Angeles rehearsing for the U.S. Grammy awards today. The group's million-selling album, "The raw and the cooked," also won the award for the best album by a British artist or group. The Brits 1990 awards were organised by the British Phonographic Industry, which is giving to a music charity the unspecified proceeds from the ceremony and from a TV recording of it. Presenter Jonathan King said the recording had been sold in advance to 50 countries and had a potential audience of 800

Global weather

(major world cities)

AMSTERDAM	12	54	18	61	Cloud
ATHENS	04	39	14	57	Cloud
Bahrain	17	63	21	70	Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	33	91	Clear
BLIENOS AIRES	18	64	25		Clear
CAIRO	10	50	18		Clear
CHICAGO	-06	18	-01	30	Close
COPENHAGEN	04	39	06		Cloud
FRANKFURT	х	X	X	X	X
GENEVA	05	41	15		Clear
HONG KONG	17	63			Rain
STANBUL	04	30			Cloud
LONDON	12		14		Cloud
LOS ANGELES	06	43			Clear
MADRID	05	41	19		Clear
MECCA	17	63	30		Cloud
MONTREAL	-14	07	-82		Snow
MOSCOW		. 14	ä		Clear
NEW DELHI	10	50	20		Clear
NEW YORK		36	13		Clear
PARIS			15		Clear
ROME		43			Ches
SYDNEY			27		Clear
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Thatcher isolates herself over South Africa, a unified Germany and taxes

LONDON (AP) — Fighting alone to relax South African sanctions and evoking World War II memories over German unification, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher appears at her most isolated interna-

tionally. Critics, including some of her own supporters and proconservative newspapers, accuse her of forfeiting Britain's influence in a fast-changing Europe and in a post-apartheid South Africa by clinging to outdated attitudes. Thatcher aides argue that on

Germany she says out loud what others believe and that it is her policy of seeking to encourage, not punish, South Africa's white rulers that has helped bring reforms and the Feb. 11 release of Nelson

The storm over Mrs. Thatcher's foreign policy and charges of cold war nostalgia have blown up amid mounting government unpopularity on domestic issues, particularly because of soaring interest rates and a controversial new property tax.

Trailing in opinion polls for the last nine months, the conservatives slumped to a 15year low behind the Socialist Labour Party in the two latest soundings this months, by

Ilup and ICN. Both showed Labour with around 50 per cent support and the Tories some 15 points behind. Britain will try at a meeting of foreign ministers in Dublin

on Tuesday to get the 12-nation European Community to lift a ban on new investment in South Africa. If the others refuse to budge, Britain has indicated it may break ranks. "If we fail to reach agree ment, then the government must reserve its right to act on its own, if necessary," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said during angry ex-changes in the House of Commons last week. Retorted Labour's foreign

affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman, "to be alone in the world and right it heroic. But to be alone in the world and wrong is futile and destruc-He was shouted down by

Conservative Party legislators. But there were signs of unease among the governing - party rank-and-file, and several urged that Britain stick with the rest of the community over

On German unification, Bri-

tain welcomed last Tuesday's

ion, Britain and France conquerors of Nazi Germany in World War II — and the two Germanys to agree on the external repercussions. But Mrs. Thatcher continues to sound cautious.

In a speech to Britain's Jew-ish leaders Sunday, she said one Germany was inevitable, but added, "it is understand-able that for some, bitter memories of the past should colour their view of the pre-

sent and future."

Last week, Mrs. Thatcher sympathised with Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki's fears about Poland's borders, which include pre-war German territories. Britain and Poland, she said, shared experiences this century "which we are determined agreement providing for the should not happen again."
United States, the Soviet Un. London's pro-Conservative Sunday Times accused Mrs. Thatcher of "consummate folly to give the Germans the impression that the British government is, at best, grudging in its support for the reunification of the two parts of their nation and, at worst. hostile." Another usually staunch

Thatcher supporter, London's

Daily Express, complained in an editorial Monday: "Surely,

45 years after the end of World War II ...we can accept this momentous event (German reunification) with something more imaginative and gener-ous than public foreboding?" Mrs. Thatcher has been iso-

lated abroad before and often this has proved a vote-winner at home, such as her battles in the 1980s in the European Community over money and French-inspired grandiose plant for closer unity